

Dedicated to Excellence



Cherry Creek Schools

Thunder Ridge Middle School
5250 South Picadilly Street
Aurora, CO 80015
720-886-1500

March 30th, 2026

Thunder Ridge Families,

We are so proud of how much progress our students have made this year, especially around our school goal of Literacy. When our community of students, teachers, and parents come together to meet common goals, there is no limit to what we can achieve. This winter, we were excited to see so much growth in both reading and math as measured by our Star Assessment. Our number of students at or above benchmark has increased and many students demonstrated significant individual growth. These results are a reflection of the hard work of our community, and we want to thank you for supporting your child and their teachers.

As we prepare for the annual state CMAS assessment, the classroom work we observe daily and the Star results from this year give us confidence that our students are capable of high levels of achievement and growth. CMAS is the primary assessment used to determine our state rating as a school. It is important to us that we have the opportunity for the incredible learning occurring every day to be demonstrated on the CMAS assessment this spring. **Because of your support, Thunder Ridge Middle School achieved our HIGHEST RATING on last Spring's CMAS assessments.** We want to keep this trend going!

This year our Math and Language Arts teachers have been talking with students about their data. We also want to be transparent about how the data is used. Important things to know about CMAS include:

- Results inform our instruction and influence our systems of support
- CMAS performance impacts future course selection in high school, including access to advanced programming
- CMAS is an opportunity for students to practice for high school high stakes assessments (ACT, SAT, AP tests, etc.)

At the beginning of this school year, we learned that our state rating at Thunder Ridge is in the *Performance* level, the highest rating available. As a school, we are committed to maintaining the *Performance* level and increasing the overall number of students at or above grade level as measured by the test. This requires the support of the entire community. Our participation rate on CMAS last year was 71%. Ideally, we would like to see a participation rate of 95% or higher. Increasing our participation rate and encouraging students to do their best on the test will give us the opportunity to demonstrate to everyone the academic strengths of the Thunder Ridge community. CMAS will be administered from April 7th through April 16th. We will have a modified schedule on Tuesdays and Thursdays only to accommodate testing, and students will have their normal Electives courses those days. Students will have a normal school schedule with all classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. ([See attached schedule.](#))

If you have any questions about the CMAS test, please contact myself or Kirsten Ryerson, Instructional Support Administrator, at kyerson@cherrycreekschools.org.

In Partnership,
John Madden
Principal