

Altura Elementary School - Wildcat News
1650 Altura Blvd. Aurora CO 80011 (303)340-3500



March 2009

Mary Ann Maddy, Principal

Classes:

- ◆ Moms, Dads, and Tots – 12:30-1:10 pm - Media Center
March 4,11,18,25
- ◆ America on the Move - 6:00-7:00 pm - Gym
March 3,5,9,12,16,20,24,27
- ◆ Parents' Coffee – 6:30-7:30 pm – Room M2
March 5,17,26
- ◆ Parents' Workshop – 6:30-7:30 pm - March 19
- ◆ Girl Scouts – 4:15-5:15 pm – March 5,12,19,26

- March 27 2nd Grade Field Trip
- March 30-April 3 **NO SCHOOL** – Spring Break

Character Trait for March is: "GENEROSITY"
Character Trait for April is: "FRIENDSHIP"

Letter from the Principal:

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This year is going by very quickly, and your student(s) have been engaged in a great deal of learning. Now it is time for the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) March 3-20, 2009. This testing is very important, and I would like to ask for your support as we begin.

You as parents can help your learners by continuing to read with them, by having them work with you on the math problems encountered in every day life, and by having them write notes, letters and lists. You can also help by seeing that students arrive well rested and on time so that they are ready to really learn. Together we can help students achieve academic success.

Thank you for the support you continue to give to Altura and the education of the students. You are a necessary part of the learning community. Many of you volunteer your time and are involved in activities such as PTO and the parent coffees and classes. If you haven't attended any parent activities, I encourage you to do so. You do make a difference! Sincerely, Mary Ann Maddy/Principal

PREPARING FOR THE COLORADO STUDENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (CSAP)

Parents and Teachers: Partners for Success

Throughout the year, teachers work to prepare students in all subject areas including those that will be tested by CSAP. This state administered test is designed to measure student achievement in relation to subject area content standards. These standards are expectations for what student should know at certain grade levels.

CSAP results provide valuable information about students' progress toward grade level benchmarks. Teachers are better able to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and support materials. Parents and the community can gauge how well each



CSAP TESTING



CSAP Testing March 3-20
CSAP Make-ups March 23-27



Calendar:

- March 2 10:30 am CSAP Kick-off Assembly
- March 5 6:30-7:30 pm Parents' Coffee – "Internet Safety On-line Resources"
- March 7 8:30-4:30 pm "Educating a Rainbow of Children" Conference – Aurora Central High School
- March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins (Set Clock forward 1 hour)
- March 10 6:30-7:30 pm PTO Meeting
- March 12 Last Day 3rd Quarter
- March 13 **NO SCHOOL** – Teacher Workday
- March 17 6:30-7:30 pm Parents' Coffee – "Nutrition Resources on Internet"
- March 17 7:00-9 pm Neighborhood Watch Mtg
- March 19 9:45-12:45 pm 5th Grade Field Trip – Bluff Lake Nature Center
- March 19 6:30-7:30 pm Parent Workshop "Star Student" Understanding Standards/Systems
- March 23 Report Cards – Go home with Students
- March 25 5:30-8:30 pm Skate City
- March 26 6:30-7:30 pm Parents' Coffee – "Parent Portal" Check Student's Attendance/Grades
- March 27 Kindergarten Field Trip

school is doing in ensuring success for every student. The state uses the results to determine how well each school district is doing in meeting state expectations. That is why CSAP is an important test, and why it is essential that each student perform to the best of his or her ability when taking the test.

What parents can do to make certain their children do well on CSAP:

On test day:

- Make certain your child attends school on test day and arrives on time
- Talk to your child and explain that it is important to give a best effort
- Make certain your child has a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast
- Encourage your child to relax and have a positive attitude
- Remind your child that CSAP is not a competition against other students: it is not a race so he/she should take time to do the best work possible
- Stress good test taking strategies:
 1. Read directions carefully
 2. Read each question carefully and look at all the answers
 3. Relax and think about each question one at a time, rather than worrying about the whole test
 4. Skip questions if the answer isn't known and, if time permits, return to the unanswered questions
 5. Check completed answers for mistakes if there is time left
- Encourage a positive attitude
- Tell your child you believe he/she can do well

Throughout the year:

- Create a home environment that encourages learning all year long
- Express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for success
- Encourage your child to do his/her best every day
- Help your child understand tests are a part of life and through practice they will get better at test taking
- Be involved with your child's school
- Be knowledgeable about the school's goals and your child's ongoing achievement

Remember, CSAP is not the only assessment Aurora Public Schools uses to measure progress. CSAP provides a snapshot of student achievement in certain content areas (reading, writing, math and science). CSAP is not used to compare your son or daughter to other students. The results simply indicate progress toward subject area content standards. Teachers use information from other assessments as well as class tests and observations to determine a more complete view of academic progress for each student. Any other questions about CSAP can be answered by your child's principal. Do not hesitate to call.

CSAP Testing for Grades 3-5

What is CSAP? CSAP stands for Colorado Student Assessment Program. It is a test designed to measure student achievement in relationship to the Colorado Model Content

Standards. These standards are expectations specifying what students should know at particular points in their education. As a result, CSAP provides a series of snapshots of student achievement in reading, writing, math, and science as they move through grades 3-10.

What happens with the results of the CSAP? Who gets to see my child's CSAP score?

Results will generate information about how well schools and students are performing statewide, using a common yardstick – the Colorado Model Content Standards. The Colorado Department of Education is required by law to report CSAP results for the state and for all local school districts. Individual student scores are released only to the school and school district.

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Letter from the Principal:

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Aurora Public Schools is offering a unique opportunity to selected students in the form of a Fifth Block (May 26 – June 25, 2009), 23 extra days of instruction to help students reach proficiency. Altura will be able to offer the Fifth Block to 50 students. Invitations will be given to students who are near proficiency in math and literacy, who have had continuous enrollment in Aurora Public Schools for at least one year (March 2008 to March 2009), and who have good attendance and behavior.

Students will be selected and parents will be notified in person or by phone starting April 6, 2009. A letter will be sent to the parents of selected students giving further explanation of the Fifth Block and the expectations for participation. Parents will also receive a contract for acceptance. This contract must be signed and returned to the school by April 13.

If your child is selected, I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity for accelerated learning. Transportation, breakfast/lunch, and nursing services will be made available to students, and there will be no need to reapply for free or reduced lunch.

Sincerely, Mary Ann Maddy/Principal

Fifth Block of Instruction:

Aurora Public Schools offers a voluntary fifth block of instruction for students who have shown academic growth during the school year and who could benefit most from additional learning time. Fifth block will

provide 23 additional days of instruction for students who are making progress in math and literacy (reading and writing) but are not yet considered proficient. Staff at each school will select 50 students from each elementary school and 100 from each K-8, middle and high school. Invitations to attend will be offered to those students near proficiency in math and literacy and who have had continuous enrollment in APS for at least one year (March 2008 to March 2009), consistent attendance and overall good behavior. Students with plans to attend school in another district or at a charter school during the 2009-10 school year are not eligible for Fifth Block.

The regular 2008-09 school year runs from August 5, 2008, to May 20, 2009. The 2009 fifth block will be offered from May 26 to June 25. School staff will notify parents of eligible students starting April 6, 2009. Parents must confirm their children's participation in fifth block by April 13, 2009. Transportation, breakfast/lunch and nursing services will be made available to students. There will be no need to reapply for free or reduced lunch.

APS will also offer its traditional summer school to many students. In the spring of 2009, APS will provide parents the *APS Youth Matters* activity guide, which will include information about additional summer learning opportunities for students. For more information about Fifth Block Instruction visit www.aps.k12.co.us/schools/fifthblock/

5th Grade Orientation at East Middle School:

5th grade students who will be attending East Middle School will attend an orientation on April 10, 2009. Students will be transported by bus. Additional information will be coming.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009

STEP 1: Register at one of the APS Centralized Admissions Offices: Hoffman Heights, (303)-326-2200 or Somerset Village (303)326-2200.

STEP 2: Complete the enrollment process at your child's designated school.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND FORMS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.APS.K12.CO.US/FAMILY/ADMISSIONS

STUDENTS MUST BE 5 YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2009, TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN Note: Current APS preschool students entering kindergarten for 2009-10 will not need to re-register at

Centralized Admissions. Please contact your home school to find out next steps to enroll your child for kindergarten beginning April 8, 2009.

"Animals at school are restricted by board policy. Since we cannot predict the behavior of animals around large groups of children, we ask that you not bring animals on the school campus, even when dropping off and picking up students, without specific permission from the principal and/or designee. Animals found on the school grounds may be turned over to Animal Control." Thank you.

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