

Dear Mustang Families,

In Manitou Springs School District we value Relationships, Deep Learning, and Opportunities for all students. These core values provide a framework for all our work in serving the whole school, whole child, and whole community.

An important aspect of reaching these core values are the assessments we give which help us assess where we are excelling and to help identify gaps in our instruction in order to support all students.

Attached to this letter is a list of all the assessments we give our students and the dates we give them. These are assessments that measure a student's academic growth as well as their social/emotional growth. <https://mssd14.ss16.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=57448&pageId=7078968>

Please note the assessments we give below as each assessment given meets the following criteria:

- State or federal statutory requirement (DIBELS-Next, CogAT, TS Gold, ACCESS, CMAS\*, DLM\*, CoAlt\*, PSAT\*, SAT\*, and NAEP\*)
- Assist the schools and districts in meeting state accountability requirements for additional data to measure student learning throughout the year (MAP: Measures of Academic Progress and Alternate versions)
- Assist with College and Career planning required for the Individual Career and Academic Plan (PSAT, SAT, and AP)
- Give students an avenue to qualify for college credit (AP)
- Give students the ability to qualify for scholarships (PSAT and SAT)
- ACT Aspire given as a district assessment in grades 3-8.
- Panaroma and Healthy Kids Colorado given in 3-12 and 6-12 respectively as a district assessment to help measure social and emotional growth.

Some of these assessments are computer-based and some are paper/pencil. Each school will notify families of upcoming assessments, the test time required, the specific assessment schedule including grade levels and content areas, and whether assessments are computer-based or pencil/paper.

Per Colorado law (HB 15-1323), parents have the right to refuse to have their child(ren) take state standardized tests marked with an asterisk (\*). Also, per the same law, Manitou Springs School District adopted policy for both paper/pencil and parent opt-out, available on the [school district website](#).

We appreciate positive encouragement of your student's participation in these assessments. As we value our relationships with families we urge you to reach out to your child's principal with any questions or concerns you may have.

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