3/1      Wrestling vs. Falcon @ Skyview (3:30 PM)
3/3      Saturday School (9 - Noon, Invitation Only)
3/6      Wrestling @ Fremont (4:00 PM)
3/7      Wrestling @ Fountain (4:15 PM)
           PTSA Meeting (4:30 PM)
3/8      Wrestling vs. Carson @ Skyview (3:30 PM)
3/9      End of 3rd Quarter
           NO STUDENTS—Professional Development Day
3/12     Wrestling vs. CMJH JV @ Skyview (3:30 PM)
3/14     Wrestling @ Woodland Park (3:30 PM)
           Honor Choir/Jazz Band Concert (6:00 PM)
           Skate City Private Night (see flyer on page 7)
3/15     SAC Meeting (5:30 PM)
           NJHS Induction Ceremony (6:30 PM, Invitation Only)
3/17     League Wrestling Tournament @ Sand Creek High School
3/19 - 30 Spring Break
3/26     Track practice begins
CMAS Testing

Testing season is upon us. When Skyview students return from Spring Break, the annual state assessment window opens and your students will begin their CMAS testing for English Language Arts, Math and Science (8th grade only). This year all state assessments will fall under CMAS (Colorado Measure for Academic Success) as the state opted out of the PARCC consortium. The assessment will look similar to previous years with the main change being the shortening of the assessment. During testing days it is vital that your student is in attendance, well fed, and receiving adequate sleep so they are able to perform at their best. Please reference the letter from Principal Cathy Tinucci regarding the importance and the impact this assessment has on our school.

Students will be testing using the following schedule:
April 3-5: 8th Grade CMAS ELA & Math tests
April 10-12: 7th Grade CMAS ELA & Math tests
April 17-19: 6th Grade CMAS ELA & Math tests
April 24 & 25: 8th Grade CMAS Science

Thank you for partnering with us as we work to provide your student the best place to learn.
Principal’s Message on State Testing

Skyview Families,

With the recent reporting of our 2017 state testing results, I am happily encouraged by the continued achievement level and growth of our Skyview students. I am also proud of our staff in being able to address the challenges of preparing students for the rigors of meeting the state standards. I continually reflect on how best to communicate to parents about all-school testing, and my leadership direction when it comes to state tests. Our successes have named our school as a strong performing school within the Colorado Springs area in several content areas; English Language Arts, Gifted education and English Language Learners. These are important gains to share and help us to demonstrate to our community that we have a School of Excellence in comparison to our neighboring schools.

Much like our preparation for the 2017 state testing season, I have decided to be as direct as I can in helping you to understand the purpose and value the state assessments have for us as a school again for the 2018 upcoming tests. The format is in commonly asked questions that we see or hear frequently. I also know that I can touch on most common topics, but you may have additional questions that are not covered here. I encourage you to email me your questions and I will either answer them directly or find the answer for you. I can be reached at ctinucci@d49.org. You can also access the District web site for a more detailed explanation at www.d49.org following the tabs (Student Services to Learning Services to Assessment).

What does testing do for Skyview Middle School?
The CMAS (Colorado Measure for Academic Success) testing helps us to determine if our students are mastering the content of the standards in each discipline of Math, Reading, Writing, and Science (8th grade only). This is important if we want to maintain that we are a standards based school that is accountable to a shared set of state level standards. We DO want to say this as a school. This testing allows us to measure how well our students are doing against other students from Colorado (CMAS). In order to compete against other schools and districts in the state, we need a common measure of performance. As a building leader, I need the information to know if our teachers are teaching appropriate curriculum and whether or not our students are learning at their grade level. Our school does not experience a direct link to any financial gain by taking, or not taking, the state assessments.

Why should my child participate in State testing?
We need to have the information from above for ALL students in our school. We use this information to help us determine whether or not a student needs intervention, placement into appropriate courses (from supported to accelerated) and as a body of evidence for us to understand your child’s achievement level. When students and parents know their level of performance, they can set and reach goals focused on performance and effort. These goals help them to prepare for college and career by giving direction and motivation. By consistently practicing the format of standardized tests, your child is preparing for their future of testing in high school preparing them to be successful on the PSAT, SAT, ASVAB, ACT, etc.

What is the reality of the time commitments of testing? To my child? To our school?
Each student taking the CMAS will be allowed between 65 minutes per test to take the Math and 110 minutes on Language Arts tests. There will be three of each of Math and Language Arts tests. 8th grade students taking the CMAS Science test are given 80 minutes. Our school has the option of scheduling these tests in any manner we see necessary within a 4-week window provided by the state. Lessons from our past experience have led us to determine that testing sessions are best given no more than 2 per day, with frequent opportunities for rest. We have also scheduled a combination of testing and classes knowing that the sooner we complete the testing, the sooner we return to regular schedules of classes. In summary, each individual student will test between 3 to 5 days (8th grade – 5 days, 7th grade – 3 days, 6th grade – 3 days) within a 4-week window from April 2nd through April 27th. Given the volume of students in our school (approximately 1080 students must all test), the availability of electronic devices, and the number of tests per day, it takes us 11 days to test our entire student body, with an additional 5 days set aside to complete make up tests and account for potential snow days. We will continue to test on late start days.

(continued)
I hear a lot of things about state assessments in the media. What is the true impact on our school?
Funding seems to be a commonly misunderstood topic around state testing. According to the Colorado Department of Education, “States that accept federal funds for such purposes as supporting the education of children in poverty, English language learners, and students with disabilities are required to administer state-wide assessments to all students. Currently, Colorado receives approximately $350 million in federal funds for these related purposes. The minimum required assessments are:

- Grades 3 through 8 for English language arts and mathematics
- At least once in high school for English language arts and mathematics
- At least once in elementary school, once in middle school, and once in high school for science

For the assessments noted above, states must give the same assessments to all students and at least 95% of the students must participate in the tests.” For the 2017-2018 school year, Colorado has declined participation in the national PARCC consortium, thus we no longer are giving the PARCC Math and Language Arts. Both of these are now covered in the CMAS structure.

Parent choice versus mandated testing – In Colorado, there are two competing laws: 1. All students in public schools must take the state tests and 2. Parents have a right to make educational decisions for their children. When a parent chooses to exempt their student from testing, these laws are at odds with each other. As a school, we allow parent choice and ask that all parents follow the district procedure for seeking exemption. The consequence to the individual child for not taking the test is that we no longer have this piece of comparison data for their achievement. The consequence to our school is that the larger this exemption group, the more unreliable the data becomes. We then lose one of the significant measures of our performance as a school and our ability to use the data for decision-making diminishes. Large groups of exemptions also put our total participation rate in jeopardy of not reaching the federally mandated 95%. In 2016-2017, Colorado got a federal waiver for falling below the 95% participation rate without penalty. There has been no legislation change in this mandate for the 2017-2018 school year.

Common Core Standards – These Standards were developed within the consortium of states participating in PARCC. Our state developed it’s own set of Colorado State Standards, which includes the Common Core Standards plus some additional standards not of the Common Core. As a public school in the state of Colorado, we WILL be using the Colorado State Standards and we WILL be following state mandates on testing. These standards are appropriate, rigorous, and viable. I believe they form an appropriate foundation for the curriculum taught in this school and when followed, WILL prepare students for college or career opportunities and WILL allow our students to compete with all other Colorado students. As political as the Common Core movement has been, the Common Core Standards are not political, nor inappropriate for our students. These standards are made readily available to anyone who chooses to read them through the Colorado Department of Education and our school website.

Please keep your eyes on our newsletters (both from the building and from individual teaching teams) for our testing schedule. It is most helpful that we have maximum attendance on those days, so please consider scheduling outside of school appointments outside your child’s testing schedule. And as stated before, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,
Cathy Tinucci, Principal
Track & Field

Any student interested in Track and Field will need to sign-up on the bulletin board outside the gym. There will be an informational meeting for students on Tuesday, March 13th during REACH. Students will receive an information packet at this meeting. 6th graders are allowed to participate in practices, but not compete in the meets. Please make sure your athlete has a sports physical on-file with the school. Practices will begin during the second week of Spring Break on March 28th, 29th and 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Skyview.

Please contact Coach Marino if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Tony Marino
719-495-1149 x4277
amarino@d49.org

ELITCH GARDENS FIELD TRIP

The annual 8th grade field trip to Elitch Gardens will be on Tuesday, May 22nd. The cost is $50 and includes the ticket, lunch, and the bus ride. Permission slips were handed out in Language Arts and are due back to your student’s Language Arts teacher by April 4th.

Please contact Ms. Streib at dstreib@d49.org if you have any questions.

Outstanding Fees/Fines?

Just a reminder to check Parent Portal for any fees or fines that your child might still owe for grade level class fees, Enrichment class fees or fines for lost library books, etc. You may pay online with a debit or credit card or send in cash or check made payable to SMS to the office.

Thank you!
Honor Choir/Jazz Band Concert

Wednesday, March 14th
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Skyview students attend STEM Day

Inspiration and empowerment were underlying goals of the Girls’ STEM Experience at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs on February 1st. Students from Falcon Middle School and Skyview Middle School attended the event which was organized to encourage middle school girls to choose careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

Click here for all the details and photos!!

PTSA Meeting

Wednesday, March 7th
4:30 PM

SAC Meeting

Thursday, March 15th
5:30 PM

Lost & Found

If your student has lost a clothing item or lunch box, please have them check the lost & found bin as soon as possible. Due to the large volume, these items will be donated to charity over Spring Break.
Smaller items, like jewelry, glasses and keys, are kept in the office until the end of the year.
YSpy Roller Skating Party

Skyview Middle School

Wednesday, March 14th

6-8pm
Admission $5.00
(traditional regular skate rental $2.50)

Bring your friends and family for a GREAT evening of skating fun, for this private skate party, just for the students, staff, family, and friends from the Skyview Middle School!

See you at Skate City!

Be the first to find given items at the rink and win a prize!

Skate City
AUSTIN BLUFFS
4575 Austin Bluffs Pkwy.
591-1016
www.skatecitycolorado.com
ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK AT YBPAY.LIFETOUCHE.COM TODAY!

Skyview Middle School

ORDER DEADLINE: April 08, 2018

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Make your student's yearbook unique by adding their name in foil on the cover.
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A durable cover that will stand the test of time.

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A great way to share messages with friends!

Yearbook cover design varies by school.
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Personalized Cover Tapa personalizada
Autograph Insert* Inversión del autógrafo*
Yearbook Stickys Adhesivos del anuario

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PAQUETE B
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Yearbook Anuario
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Personalized Cover Tapa personalizada

$37.00
$42.00

PACKAGE C
PAQUETE C
Soft Cover Tapa Blanca
Yearbook Anuario
Zoom: Current Events Insert* Zoom: Volante de los eventos actuales*
Personalized Cover Tapa personalizada

$36.00
$41.00

PACKAGE D
PAQUETE D
Soft Cover Tapa Blanca
Yearbook Anuario
Zoom: Current Events Insert* Zoom: Volante de los eventos actuales*

$31.50
$36.50

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ALREADY ORDERED A YEARBOOK, PLEASE DISREGARD THIS NOTICE. THANK YOU

*Inserts must be affixed in the yearbook after arrival. *Los volantes deben ser opcionales en el año antes de su llegada.

Please include sales tax unless applicable. When you pay by check, you authorize us to process the payment as a check transaction, or to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your checking account. A service fee may be charged on returned checks. Post dated checks are not accepted. If your price includes shipping & tax, the price includes shipping & tax. All prices are subject to change without notice.

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CONCERT PERFORMANCE!
HONOR CHOIR WILL BE PERFORMING AT....

Spring Piano Recital Update...

Students should be practicing at least 1 to 2 hours per week. All students will receive a "Participation" grade each week for the amount of time spent practicing. They all have their Spring Recital pieces and it is imperative that each student not only practice but begin memorizing their music! Plan on being entertained with their amazing skills!

PARENTS: Students will need your constant support and encouragement. Take some time to listen to them and give reassuring feedback!

CONTACT ME...

Email: hjarmon@d49.org

Phone: (719) 495-1149 ext. 4260

Website: www.smschoirnews.wikispaces.com

6th Grade Class Performance -
3rd Quarter

Thursday, March 1st
6th period - 12:50 pm / 7th period - 1:45 pm

Classroom performance will be held in the Choir Room during class time.

Parents are welcome to attend - space is limited.

Performance Attire: Performance attire is as follows: Black, navy blue, or brown slacks or pants/jeans for boys and girls (exceptions will be made for those students who have religious restraints). White long or short sleeved shirts or tops are acceptable. T-shirts ARE NOT OPTIONAL! Dark colored shoes, no sandals, flip-flops or heels over 2". These types of shoes are safety issues when students are performing on the risers. No gawky or oversized jewelry. Colored hair (such as green, pink, blue, etc) is highly discouraged. Students will be graded not only on their vocal production and their overall performance but their appearance as well.

Vocal-Eeze Jazz Choir

Thursday, March 14th – Jazz Night (featuring Vocal-Eeze Jazz Choir & SMS Jazz Band)
6:00 pm – Cafeteria
Concert Attire
Concert attire is: Black slacks (boys) & black shoes

A Night At The Opera!!

AIDA
G. Verdi

Coming soon... May 9th

If you wish to attend the tickets are $5.00. Money is due April 7th. Please make your check payable to SMS note: Opera!
**What is DRIVEN?**

**DRIVEN** is an after school club where students fellowship with Christians and other students on the campus. One of the most important goals of **DRIVEN** is to impact the local community through outreach service projects within the Falcon School District.

Each year **DRIVEN** sponsors **Operation Christmas Child OCC** (December) and **Project Stuff-It** (MARCH).

Both projects are designed to reach middle school aged youth with a message of hope, love and care through giving.

If you are able to help, put your donated items in a donated backpack or you or plastic bag, and send it to school with your student. We’ll be stuffing the backpacks on **March 17th from 9:30 – 11:30** at:

**Gethsemane Fellowship Christian Church**
1628 Babcock Lane

Skyview Middle School student club **DRIVEN** and Gethsemane Christian Fellowship Church have partnered together to sponsor a project to help homeless teens in the Colorado Springs area. These teens (often referred to as “throw-aways”), are often overlooked, bullied, and looked down upon! We want to make a difference in the lives of these teens and our community and city with the love of Christ!

We are going to stuff as many backpacks as possible for these young people. Please help us by donating any of the following items:

- Backpack
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- soap
- washcloths
- Books
- Journal
- Playing cards
- Hand mirror
- School supplies
- Blanket
- Scarves
- T-shirts
- Socks
- Underwear
- Fingernail clippers
- Winter hat/baseball cap
- Non-perishable Snacks
- Belt
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Games
- Stuffed animals
- Flashlight
- Water bottle
- Hair accessories
- Watch
- Comb & brush
- Wallet

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2