3/2  Saturday School—invitation only  (9:00 AM—Noon)
3/5  Wrestling vs. Watson @ Skyview (3:30 PM)
3/7  End of 3rd Quarter
    Wrestling @ Sproul (3:30 PM)
3/8  Professional Development—NO STUDENTS
3/9  Wrestling Tournament @ Widefield (Time TBA)
3/11 Optional Softball Skills Clinic (3:00—5:00 PM)
3/12 Optional Softball Skills Clinic (3:00-5:00 PM)
    Wrestling vs. District 2 @ Skyview (3:30 PM)
    PTSA Meeting (4:30 PM)
3/13 Softball Tryouts (3:00-5:30 PM)
    Jazz Night (6:00 PM)
3/14 Softball Tryouts (3:00-5:30 PM)
    SAC Meeting (5:30 PM)
    NJHS Induction Ceremony (6:30 PM)
3/16 Wrestling League Tournament @ Sand Creek High School (Time TBA)
3/18—3/29 Spring Break
February School Newsletter, 2019
Principal’s Message on State Testing

Skyview Families;
With the recent reporting of our 2018 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 2018 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 2019 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) or across the nation. 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 1st through April 26th. Given the volume of students in our school
(Approximately 1055 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.

**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 and 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 2018-2019 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%.

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 choses 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,
Catherine J. 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 Wednesday, March 13th during REACH. Students will receive an informational packet at this meeting. 6th graders are allowed to participate in practices, but can't 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 27th, 28th and 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Skyview.

Please contact Coach Marino if you have any questions.
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 21st. 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 3rd.

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

Band News

JAZZ NIGHT is Wednesday, March 13th. Performers need to be here between 5:15-5:30 and the concert starts at 6pm. This will be a concert with Jazz Band and Jazz Choir.

To all current 6th grade parents, if your student would like to join the band for next year there is an opportunity for that to happen. The CONCERT band is the class they should sign up for for the 2019-2020 school year. Instruments available through various music stores and I would suggest getting some private lessons just to get a good start on next year. Also, if your current band member wants to switch instruments, they need to sign up for Concert band.

PtSa Meeting

Tuesday, March 12th
4:30 PM

Sac Meeting

Thursday, March 14th
5:30 PM
Books for Bay District Schools
Book Drive

Hurricane Michael's 255 mile per hour winds destroyed school and classroom libraries when it made landfall on October 10, 2018 as a Category 4 storm. School and classroom libraries were destroyed! The Skyview Battle of the Books team and Mrs. Barrientos's REACH class students are conducting a book drive for Bay District Schools in Panama City, Florida. We will be collecting new and gently used books in boxes located around the school until March 15. After this date, Mrs. Barrientos will be transporting the books collected to Bay District Schools district office when she returns to Panama City, FL to help her parents with more hurricane repair tasks over Spring Break.

To see the damage to one of the schools in Panama City, please view this video. This is the school where Mrs. Barrientos completed her student teaching in 1990. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEEvde2-5DE .

If you have further questions about ways to help, please contact Mrs. Barrientos. The students of the Bay District Schools appreciate the Skyview family sharing the gift of reading with them!

Thank you for your support!
Mrs. Angel Barrientos
Skyview Middle School 2019 Softball Information

You must have a physical on file in order to try out for the team!

Tryouts: All students must try out in order to be on the team.

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<tr>
<th>Monday March 11</th>
<th>Tuesday March 12</th>
<th>Wednesday March 13</th>
<th>Thursday March 14</th>
<th>Friday March 15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Softball Tryouts 3:00-5:30 pm</td>
<td>Softball Tryouts 3:00-5:30 pm</td>
<td>3:00-4:00 Uniform handout &amp; lockers!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills Clinic at Skyview Middle School 3:00-5:00</td>
<td>Skills Clinic at Skyview Middle School 3:00-5:00</td>
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<td>4:00 Parent Meeting in the big gym</td>
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Equipment:
All girls trying out will need to bring a glove to tryouts and the camp. Athletes will need to dress for the weather as we will be outside even if it is cold. Please wear cleats or tennis shoes and athletic attire Thu to tryouts and the camp.

Grades:
In order to be eligible to play you must be passing ALL of your classes (including enrichments, and REACH). Grades will be checked each Friday. Any failing grades will make you ineligible to participate. You are a student-athlete; student comes first!

Practices: Upon making the team, all practices will be held at Skyview Middle School from 3:00-5:00 (varsity will go until 5:30) Monday through Friday. All practices are mandatory; however, please let Coach Anderson or Coach O’Meara know if you are going to miss a practice. Practices will start Wednesday March 27th from 3:00-5:00. Varsity will practice until 5:30. If you have any conflicts for practicing during spring break, please let us know.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Coach Anderson or Coach O’Meara. We are looking forward to an amazing season!

Megan Anderson and Shanna O’Meara
mranderson@d49.org and someara@d49.org
SCHOOL DISTRICT 49
COMMUNITY NIGHT WITH THE DENVER NUGGETS

Denver Nuggets vs San Antonio Spurs
Wednesday – April 3rd, 2019 • 7:00pm • Pepsi Center

Alternate Night: Denver Nuggets vs. Washington Wizards
Sunday – March 31st, 2019 • 6:00pm • Pepsi Center

TICKETS:
Lower/Club Level: $49
Upper Level: $23

* All tickets include a free Nuggets Hat.

Order tickets online at:
https://nuggets.ksetickets.com/D49
Follow the link to purchase

*Purchase by Friday, March 26th
There are NO taxes or fees. This offer is not valid at Pepsi Center Box Office or directly through Altitude Tickets. Tickets are sold on a first come first served basis and are subject to availability. Ticket prices are subject to change without notice. All sales are final – no refunds or exchanges permitted.

A portion of every ticket purchased will benefit District 49

For more information, call Lexie Urratio at 303.405.1139
or email Lexie.Urratio@TeamKSE.com

30 randomly selected participants will be able to participate in a special experience!