

# Thunder Mountain Elementary School



February 2017

Diane Carver, Principal | Shawn Wilson, Asst. Principal | Mary Gorsuch, Secretary | Jackie DiThomas, Secretary

## Important Dates

### Student Council

#### Talent Show

February 10th, 2017  
6:00 p.m.

### No School Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 16th-17th, 2017

### No School

February 20th, 2017

### School of Choice opens

March 6th, 2017 10:00 a.m.

### Stone/Kissner concert

March 6th, 2017

### PTA meeting in Library

March 7th, 2017 4:15 p.m.

### Schaneman/Utemei concert

March 7th, 2017 6:00 p.m.

### Math & Science Night

March 7th, 2017 6:00 p.m.

### Chess Tournament

March 8th, 2017 2:15

### Kindergarten Roundup

March 10th, 2017 9:00 a.m.

### School of Choice closes

March 31st, 2017 4:00 p.m.

## A Message From the Principal

Shared vision: We strive to be a positive community who thinks creatively, problem solves, and loves learning.

Dear Thunder Mountain Community,

As we start the new year, 2017, this is a great time to check with your child's teacher to see what you can do to be sure your child is progressing as needed to meet the grade level goals. Your child's teacher can tell you how your child is progressing and share ideas with you for how to help. To stay motivated in the middle of the year your child might need extra praise and encouragement from you. You might even turn homework into some kind of competition or game to keep the child interested.

Teachers look at classroom daily work and tests, as well as standardized tests, to gather information about how the students are progressing. This helps teachers figure out what next instructional steps should be. With all of us working together we can help our children grow.

Besides helping your children with homework or reading each night, another way you can help your children grow is by being sure they are in attendance and on time each day. The following information is quoted from The Parent Institute's flyer on "Attendance- A Key to Your Student's Success":

- Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning.
- Being late for school hurts a child's learning, too. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year. The same thing happens when a child is picked up early.
- Children can make up assignments, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive.
- Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background- one that can only be gained through regular school attendance.

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Friendships are also formed by bonding with the other children each day. When a child is absent the child's friends have to go ahead and play with other children, so it makes it more difficult to keep friendships when a child is absent.

Thunder Mountain is committed to helping your child have the best educational experience possible. We are so lucky to have parents who do everything they can to support the learning of their children.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Diane Carver, Principal

## Student Council

Student Council is sponsoring "Night of Creative Thunderbirds," on Friday Feb. 10 at 6:00 PM. We will have an Art Show in the cafeteria, where guests will be able to vote for the grade they think provided the highest quality work by placing money in money jars. Following the Art Show, will be a talent show in the gym. Students from grades 2-5 are currently having tryouts and we are excited by all the enthusiasm and talented students. The cost to enter will be \$1 per person, or \$3 per family. Join us for this spectacular event highlighting the arts at Thunder Mountain.

Student Council is also excited to sponsor "Read Across America," by inviting parents, community members, and staff, to read to a class during library time the week of Feb. 27- Mar. 3. Readers can bring their own favorite book or we will be happy to supply excellent books that illustrate Growth Mindset and Habits of Mind. The books should take about 10-15 min. and readers can invite questions and discussion.

## MUSIC NOTES

(I will send your student home with an informational note containing further details as we get closer to their concert date)

All concerts will start at 6pm in the cafeteria unless noted otherwise

Stone/Kissner(2nd grade)- Monday, March 6th

Utemei/Schaneman- Tuesday, March 7th

Reed/Long- Monday, April 3rd

Lebsock/Stout- Tuesday, April 4th

All Kinder- Wednesday, May 17th \*in the gym\*



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T H E R E ' S O N L Y O N E



## Kindergarten Roundup

Kindergarten Roundup will be March 10th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Parents will not be selecting morning or afternoon. Placement of students will be based on their academic needs. It won't be necessary to arrive early to get on the a.m. list because that is not the process now. You will be able to register your child all day. Information about our extended care program, K-Kids, will be available.

Items needed for registration:

Proof of Residence (a bill, rental, or purchase agreement)

Birth Certificate (State certified, not from hospital)

Immunization record

Reminder: Incoming kindergarteners must be 5 years of age on or before July 15, 2017.



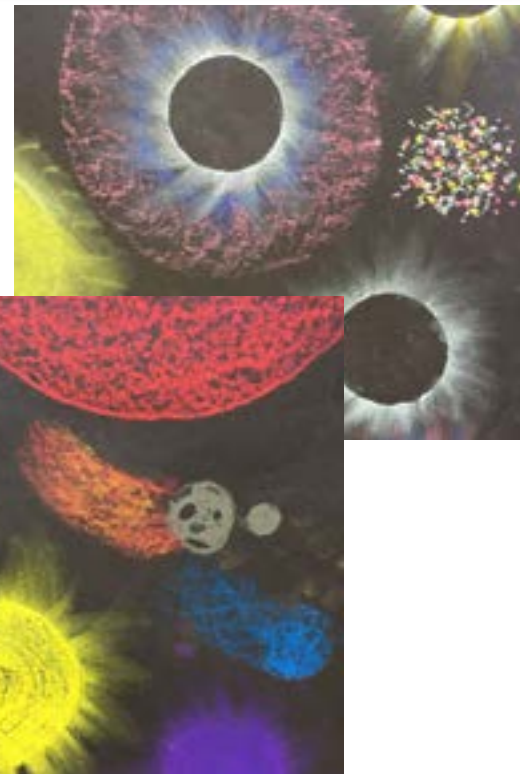
## “Cool Hands, Warm Hearts”

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade are learning about warm and cool color groups, and how to paint with watercolor.



## “Spectacular Space”

3rd, 4th and 5th graders are using chalk pastel to create these very colorful space pictures. This project integrates with both science and math, specifically astronomy and geometry!



## NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

- Sports Physical Special: \$25! No appointment necessary. You do not have to be a current patient.
- General Health
- Prevention & Wellness
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- Acute Illness and Treatment
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- Specialist Referrals



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SOAR books are in!! Students who show excellence or growth in Safety, Ownership, Awesome Learner, and Respect, may earn a SOAR call home that includes a SOAR book. These books were purchased from Barnes & Noble with the money we earned at our December book fair. Thank you for supporting our Thunder Mountain students!

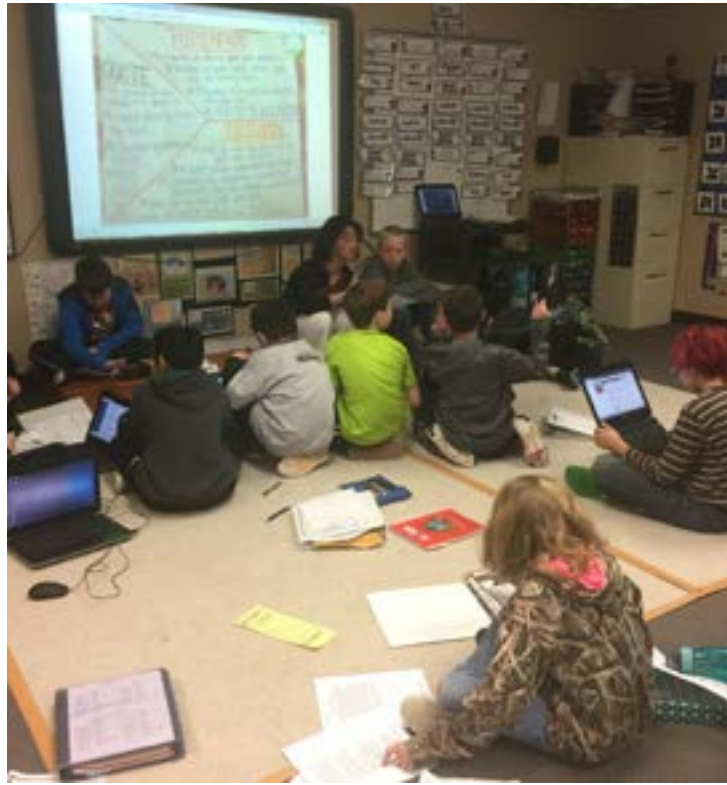


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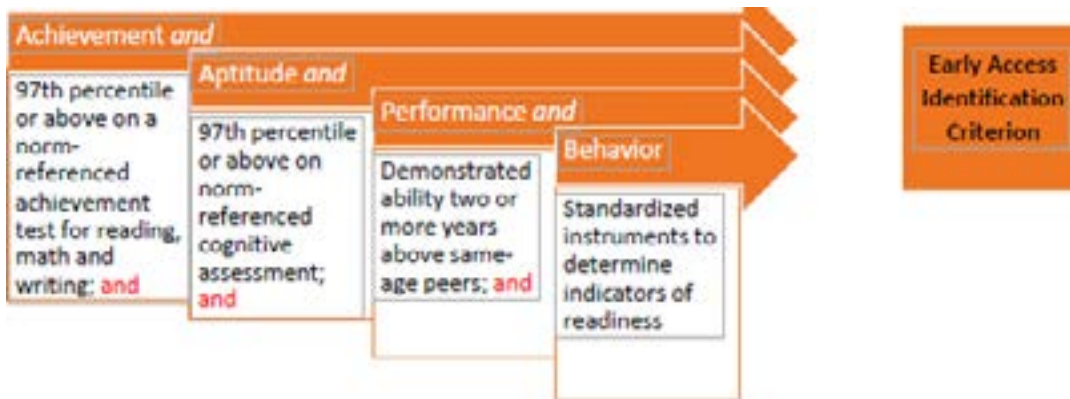
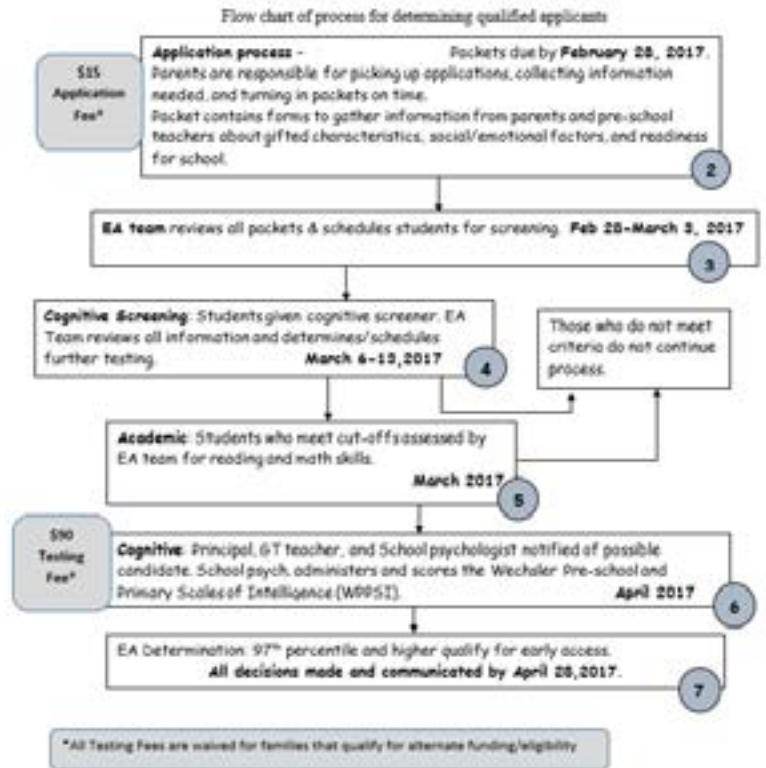
## Early Access to Kindergarten or 1st Grade

*Early Access is a way for highly gifted students to enter kindergarten or 1st grade early. It is designed for students that are highly advanced cognitively and academically.*

Applications can be picked up at the Gifted and Talented Office at 930 Ute Ave (East modular behind building) in Grand Junction or they can be accessed online at:

<http://www.mesa.k12.co.us/departments/gt>.

Application deadline is February 28, 2017.



For more information contact:

Heather Baskin, Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programming or

Bev Jebe, Administrative Assistant

(970) 254-6903 heather.baskin@d51schools.org bev.jebe@d51schools.org



# The Role of State Assessments in Increasing Academic Achievement



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

Colorado has a series of educational standards, known as the Colorado Academic Standards that outline academic objectives for students in every grade across 10 content areas. Fully implemented in the 2013-14 school year, the standards have raised the bar for Colorado students, increasing the expectations so they are prepared to succeed in college or careers upon high school graduation. To measure students' mastery of more rigorous standards in grades three through nine, Colorado has implemented a set of common assessments known as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success, or CMAS.

## PURPOSE AND VALUE OF STATE ASSESSMENTS

CMAS are the only common measuring tool in Colorado for students in third- through ninth-grade. Measuring real-world skills like problem-solving and critical thinking, the tests are aligned to classroom work so teachers do not have to "teach to the test."

While CMAS assessments are only one measure of student learning, having all Colorado students take this set of assessments provides parents with answers to these important questions:

- How well is my child doing on meeting state standards compared to other students?
- Which schools and districts perform best in preparing students for success in meeting the state standards?
- Which districts have the best performance on the state standards for children with special needs?
- What schools and districts have the best performance on the state standards for children of color?

Additionally, state assessment results provide:

- information educators need to help improve instruction.
- identification of districts and schools that have struggling students, so help can be provided.
- recognition of high performing systems so others may learn from them.



## Practice Tests Help Students Be Ready

Parents are sometimes concerned that participating in these tests can cause anxiety in their child or that preparing for the test takes away time from instruction. Because these tests are aligned to the CAS and classroom instruction, these tests should not cause any more anxiety than any of the other tests student take as part of their education. Also, practice tests are available to help familiarize parents and students with test content and structure.