

WEST WORLD MONTHLY

November 2018

West Campus Vision

Building on the unique Westside tradition to foster creators of the future.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...

Dear Parents/Guardians, and Members of the West Community,

November is a month of beauty! The leaves are transformed into a painter's pallet of color and then fall away. Just as the leaves change so do your children as they become more independent and responsible.



As we teach and reinforce AVID strategies here at school, you can help by fostering responsibility and independence at home. Allow your children to work independently on homework, have assigned chores, and get backpacks and clothes ready for the next morning. Discuss the goals they have set for this year and encourage them to have a growth mindset. Their brain is like a muscle that grows!

Even though the weather keeps changing on us, the academic process here at the West Elementary is staying constant. The teachers and students have established their routines and procedures for classes. Our first set of quarterly benchmark tests are completed and Random Acts of Kindness lessons and projects have begun. As I walk around our school, and visit each classroom, I am so proud of our teachers and students. It is wonderful to see how much effort they are all putting forward.

November is an important time for us all to reflect on our many blessings. I am certainly thankful for the many blessings in my life, including working with the amazing students, parents/caregivers, teachers, and support staff at West Elementary.

Please remind students to dress for the changing season by layering and bringing jackets for outside. Our policy is to go outside for recess unless the temperature is below 16 degrees. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately.

There will be no school the week of Nov 19th to the 23rd for Thanksgiving Break. I wish you all a relaxing and rejuvenating week with loved ones.

Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education,

Karen Newton

*Home of the
Wolves & the
Warriors*

*"Two Schools, One
Family – Linked
together by our
heart for kids"*

**Elementary
Office
719-328-4900**

**Middle School
Office
719-328-3900**

**Elementary School
Principal
Karen Newton**

**Middle School
Principal
Shalah Sims**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...

Dear West Families,

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy - incentives and penalties
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.



If you have any questions regarding your student's attendance, please call the office.

With warm regards,

Shalah P. Sims

Shalah P. Sims, Principal

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHEN IS SICK TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?



Send me to school if...

I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.

I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.

I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.



Keep me at home if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine.

I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.

My eyes are pink and crusty.



Call the doctor if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days.

I've been throwing up or have diarrhea for more than two days.

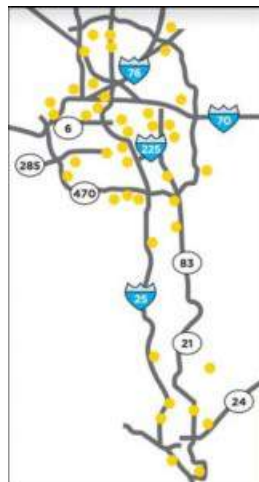
I've had the sniffles for more than a week, and they aren't getting better.

I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (and call 911 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler).



Adapted with permission from Baltimore City Public Schools.

Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable! Reach parents in your local community & a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school!



We have Smile Generation®-trusted offices in **Westminster, Arvada, Lakewood, Littleton, Highlands Ranch, Colorado Springs** and many other cities.

We connect you with trusted dentists.
1-800-SmileGen | SmileGeneration.com

VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION

You are cordially invited to

WEST ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS

1920 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
on
Friday, November 9, 2018
From 9 -11 a.m.
to honor our


UNITED STATES VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

featuring guest speaker
CSM Tony J. Liles
Military Personnel Division, Senior Enlisted Advisor
Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division
Fort Carson Army Base
and the American Legion Centennial Post 209 Honor Guard.

Coffee and donuts for honored guests will follow the celebration.

Please join us and share our invitation with
other veterans and active duty military!

RSVP to Angie at (719) 328-3900 or angela.hernandez@d11.org by November 2, 2018.




PreK - 12 Colorado Teachers!

Apply for a Teachers and Technology Grant for the 2018 - 19 school year for your school

West Campus

Grants range from \$500 to \$5000 and are available to full-time classroom teachers in public or private school. The CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation's Teachers and Technology grants are designed to help fund projects that advance student success through the innovative use of technology in the classroom.

Click centurylink.com/teachersandtechnology

© 2018 CenturyLink. All Rights Reserved.



COUNSELING CORNER

This month in our Counseling Corner I would like to help you read and interpret your student's 2018 test score report for the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). You will receive your child's CMAS scores at parent teacher conferences on October 24th- 25th. CMAS assessments in English language arts, math, science, and social studies align with the Colorado Academic Standards and measure complex skills like critical thinking and problem solving; the skills students really need today. A score report is created for each student who takes a CMAS test. The reports feature information that will help parents better understand how well their child is meeting the expectations of the Colorado Academic Standards and if their child is on track for college or career after graduation. These tests are given at the end of the year and are just one indicator that can be used along with report cards, classroom performance, and teacher feedback to provide a complete picture of your student's progress.

COUNSELING CONTACTS

Steve Webb- Elementary Counselor

Steven.webb@d11.org

Julie Walker- Elementary Social Worker

Juliann.walker@d11.org

Sarah Clapham- 6th and 7th Grade Counselor

Sarah.clapham@d11.org

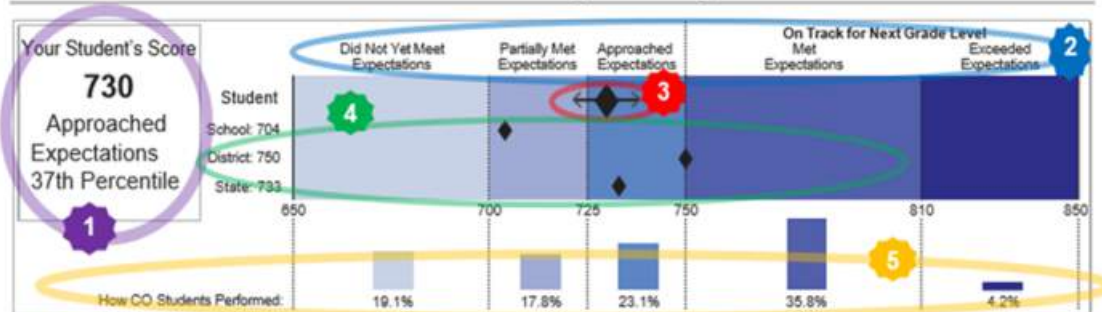
Sandra Seaney-8th Grade Counselor

Sandra.seaney@d11.org

Nick Liles- Social Worker

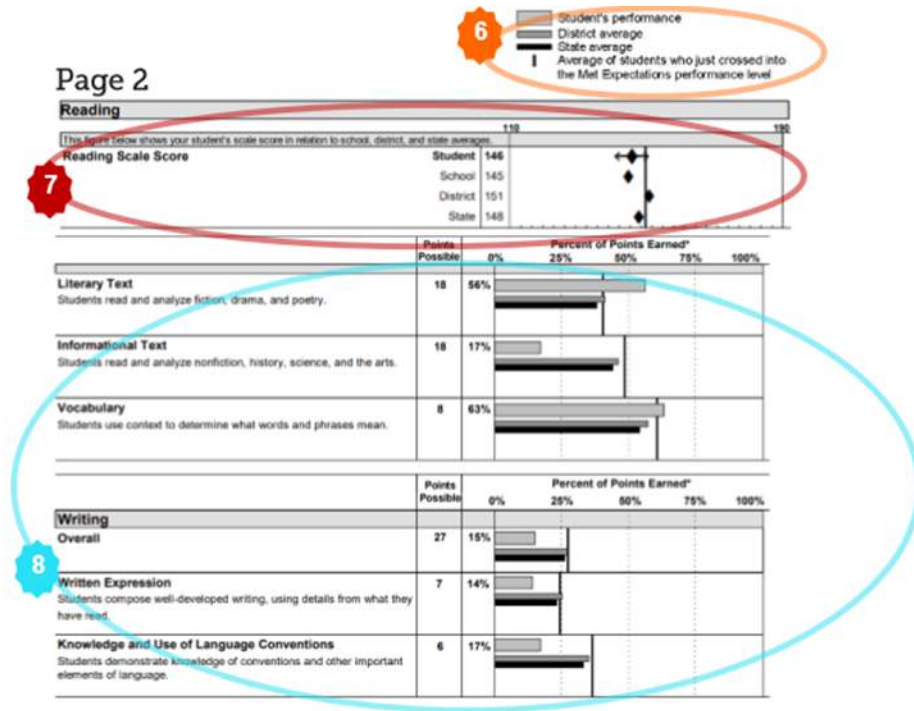
Nicholas.liles@d11.org

How to Read Your Student's 2018 Score Report – Page 1



- 1 Student Performance Overview** – This section provides your child's overall score. Students receive a numerical overall score and, based on that score, are included in one of five performance levels. The percentile ranking shows how well your student performed in comparison to other students in the state. For example, a student in the 37th percentile performed better than 37 percent of students in the state. The grade-level content area concepts and skills typically demonstrated by students within your child's performance level are included in the Performance Level Descriptor section on the bottom of page one.
- 2 Performance Levels** – Performance levels describe how well students met the expectations of their grade level. Each performance level is defined by a range of scores. The highest two performance levels indicate that students met or exceeded expectations and are on track for the next grade level. The lower three performance levels indicate that students are not yet fully meeting grade level expectations.
- 3 Score Range** – Scale scores are represented by diamonds on the graph. The arrows around your student's diamond show the range of scores your student would likely receive if the test was taken multiple times. Arrows around the example student's diamond show that the student may have scored in a lower performance level if the test was taken multiple times.
- 4 Overall Score Comparisons** – School, district, and state diamonds represent the average scores of students taking the same test as your child. Use the score averages to see how your child's score compares to other students taking these tests. In this example, the student scored higher than the school but lower than the district and state.
- 5 State Performance** – The bars beneath the overall performance graphic give you a sense of how your child's performance compares to others in Colorado by showing the percentage of students who performed at each of the five performance levels.

COUNSELING CORNER CONTINUED..



6 **Graph Key** – The key on the top of page 2 shows which bar represents your student’s performance, district performance and state performance in the score breakdown section of the report. The dark vertical line shows how students who just crossed into the Met Expectations level performed.

7 **Reading Performance** – Overall reading scores on the English language arts report are represented by diamonds on the graph. The arrows around your student’s diamond show the range of scores your student would likely receive if the assessment was taken multiple times. Look at the school, district, and state scores and diamonds to see how your child’s reading score compares to other students taking these tests. In this example, the student scored slightly higher than the school and slightly lower than the district and state. Arrows around the example student’s diamond show that the student may have scored the same as the school or state if the test was taken multiple times. *Note: Reading sub-performance scores are on a different scale than the overall score.*

8 **Score Breakdowns** – This section provides a breakdown of your student’s performance in specific reading and writing areas on the English language arts report and math areas on the math report. You can see where your student is excelling or may need improvement. Performance in these areas is reported as the percent of points your student earned on the assessment for each category. Use the bars identified in the graph key at the top of the page to compare your student’s performance to district and state averages as well as to students who just crossed into the Met Expectations performance level. In this example, the student outperformed the district and state in the Literary Text and Vocabulary categories. The student did not perform as well as the district, state, or students who just crossed into the Met Expectations performance level in the Reading Informational Text and Writing categories. *Note: Percent of points earned cannot be compared across years.*

How Can I Support My Child?

- Work with your student’s teacher to identify strategies to enrich your child’s education where he/she is already meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations. Your student’s teacher can help identify resources to improve your student’s performance where needed. Tutoring, after-school/before school programs are available to help students practice skills.
- Assure your student that test scores are only one indicator of progress.
- Determine which skills to reinforce at home. The detailed breakdowns of specific skills on your student’s score report serve as a great starting point for identifying areas that need improvement.

ATHLETICS

Wrestling – Our district classics is Saturday, November 10th. Good luck Warriors! Let's bring home a 4-peat!

Girls' Basketball – Congrats to the girls that have made the basketball team! Please come support our West Warriors at any home game. The cost for adults is \$1.00 and the cost for school-aged kids is 50 cents. Any D-11 employee can attend our home games for free if you show your badge. B squad is scheduled to begin at 4:30pm and A squad begins right after the conclusion of the B squad game. Home games for West are:

November 8th

November 13th

November 15th



Concessions will be available for purchase at all home games and proceeds go directly back to the school.

IMPORTANT DATES



11/9	Veteran's Day Assembly 9:00-11:00
11/12	5 th Grade and Eagles Concert 6:30
11/13	PTA Meeting 5:00-5:45
11/13	MS Student Accountability Meeting 5:45– 6:30
11/19-11/23	Thanksgiving Break- No School
12/6	MS Choir and Orchestra Concert 7:00

FAMILY LEARNING INSTITUTE INFO

The Family Learning Institute is a series of workshops focused on providing information to parents and guardians regarding social/emotional topics, academics and community resources. As our superintendent Dr. Thomas often expresses, parents and guardians are the first and foremost educators of our students. District 11 embraces them as partners in education and looks forward to providing them with information they can use in communicating and parenting their students. The goal is to provide quarterly Family Learning Institutes at each of the traditional high schools or one of their aligned feeder schools to encourage attendance for parents in their own neighborhood. However, parents from schools throughout the district, and all are welcome.

For more information please visit www.d11.org/fli



**LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN!
BOYS AND GIRLS!
CHILDREN OF ALL AGES!**

**WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY!
COME CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF DISNEY MAGIC AND
SOME OF THE MUSIC THAT HELPED MAKE THAT MAGIC
HAPPEN WITH FAVORITE SONGS FROM THE MOVIES OF
PETER PAN, MARY POPPINS, THE JUNGLE BOOK, THE
LITTLE MERMAID AND THE LION KING.**

**PERFORMED BY: WEST ELEMENTARY 5TH GRADES AND
THE EAGLES CLASS (3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH GRADES)**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2018

6:30 P.M.

WEST CAMPUS AUDITORIUM

From Your West Campus Parent-Teacher Association

PTA News and Notes, November 2018



Dear West Campus Parent,

Happy Fall! A quick update about what PTA has in the works...

- **HELP SEND FREE MONEY TO WEST—King Soopers cash cards are here!** Charge your groceries on your card and a full 5% of what you spend automatically goes to West Campus PTA. This is a no-brainer fundraiser as it doesn't require you to spend anything you wouldn't be spending anyway. **It's like "free money" for the school.** If you'd like to get a rechargeable King Soopers card, please email westcampuspta@gmail.com.
- **SAVE THE DATE—Kids' Night Out is set for December 14**—pull out your phone and mark your calendar. For a small fee, you can drop off your elementary-school kid(s) to be entertained for the evening (dinner included) while you get a few hours off. The middle schoolers in National Junior Honor Society will provide games and activities. This is great fun for all! Watch your child's backpack in early December for details. (And if you have a middle schooler who wants to help and isn't in NJHS—let us know—we'd welcome additional volunteer helpers. The more the merrier!)
- **QUESTION: SHOULD PTA ORGANIZE A CARNIVAL FOR THE SPRING?** If you say, "YES!" then join our Carnival Meeting November 13 at 5:00 pm in the Media Center—PLEASE COME! We think this would be a great activity—but it's a volunteer-intensive one, which means we need to have enough parents willing to help before we can commit. You don't need to be a PTA member to attend and help, we just need willing and able parents who can work with us to put it on. (Your children are welcome at the November 13 meeting—there are plenty of books to entertain!)

Remember, **PTA meeting minutes** are archived on the West Campus website under the "Parents" tab.

And, if you've yet to "like" and "follow" the **West Campus PTA on Facebook**, please do. That's a great way to stay tuned in to what's coming up.

Have a great November!

The West Campus PTA (Fall 2018 Membership Drive—Nov. Newsletter)

YES! I'd like to join and donate to the West Campus PTA today. It's just \$10 to join—any additional donation beyond that goes toward our PTA-sponsored projects. **Cash accepted or make checks out to West Campus PTA.**



Please circle one: \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$ _____ (other)

Name _____

Child(ren) and Grade/Class _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

[] Yes! Please let me know if you need help with any projects, and I'll let you know if I'm available.