

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings Roughriders,

I hope this communication finds you well. I wanted to begin by thanking the parents who were able to join us for conferences this week. As always, we welcome you into the building anytime, especially when partnering in your child's academic progress. My hope is that we can continually increase our level of parent participation in this process moving forward. With that in mind, even if your child is doing very well in class, there is always an opportunity to have discussions with teachers about additional challenges or rigor, specifically with a focus on post secondary academic plans. Our teaching can evolve to meet the future needs of your students in college or in the workforce and that type of conversation is something we encourage.

We have two more weeks before spring break, and during this time, we are preparing as staff and students for our Spring Assessments. Our staff will have their annual assessment training this year on March 17th. During advisory on March 22nd and 23rd, our students will use this time to "bubble in" their testing documents as part of our pre-administration process. 10th & 11th graders will be bringing home a Student Consent form to allow test scores and other information to be shared with colleges. You can review an example of the Consent form [here](#).

As a reminder, our testing dates are as follows:

SAT 11th grade- April 12th

PSAT 9th & 10th grade- April 13th

CMAS Science 11th grade- April 20th

Make up dates have been scheduled for the last week of April. As a note, please encourage your child to do their absolute best on these assessments. We do use these data points to drive instruction, programs, and make changes to our instructional delivery models school wide. We also will use these tests along with NWEA (MAP) testing to drill down to the individual needs of a student. Of course, the SAT is vital to the college acceptance process, so the "practice" opportunity afforded by the PSAT 9 and 10 are great opportunities to check for progress on the continuum of learning.

As an administrative team, we are deep into the Assessment Prep process as well as our Master Scheduling process. Continuing the vital work academically for the next two and half months and planning for next fall are the balance of our typical work week. This week, I had the chance to meet with the District Accountability Committee and hear about our Pre-K programming, Capital Building Projects throughout the district, and our Superintendent Search. I, along with many other community stakeholders, will have the fortune of being a member of the interview team in the coming weeks. In addition, I got the chance, by myself, to go to the new building after school yesterday. This is the second time in my career that I have been an administrator opening a new building, and I am so impressed with the facilities, the architectural design matching the instructional models, and RHS being programmatically forward thinking. It is impossible to not walk away with a huge smile after taking a tour of the building. I am thrilled for the students, staff, and community as whole for what the future brings. The design team did not miss anything, and the proof is in that other districts are reaching out to ask questions and tour the building.

Lastly, I had the chance to drive down to Denver last night to watch the state semifinal for the girls' basketball team. They did not disappoint as they took charge early on their way to an impressive 20 point win against Durango. Yes, we are in the State Championship on Saturday, as we will face our neighboring rival in Windsor for the State Title. Congratulations to Coach Miller and the team. A special thanks to Mr. Walker for organizing the spirit buses so that our students can come down safely to support our team. We have consistently had the largest fan base of any school at the Elite 8, boys or girls. In addition, thanks to Mr. Balderson as well for bringing the band, especially after a long week of band rehearsing and performing this past Wednesday night. It was super cool to hear our fight song in the Coliseum. Of course, the Dance and Cheer teams were also fully represented as well getting the crowd going. A final shout out to Katelynn Davids for her National Anthem performance (again), as she hit every note in the huge Denver Coliseum venue. That can't be an easy task!

More news next week on the Girls' Basketball team and other spring programs like baseball, track, FFA and golf which are getting started. I am also excited about our Speech and Debate Team here at RHS. Thanks to Ms. Buntinas and our student leaders for getting this started. I believe we have had two meetings so far in anticipation for an active level of participation this fall. This is a very involved and intensely competitive event. If your child is interested please contact Ms. B.

As always, have a safe and restful weekend. Go Riders!

David Benson
RHS Principal