

# Vanguard

## CLASSICAL SCHOOL

Dear Parent,

October 2016

Our goal is to prepare your child with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to succeed in the future, whether that includes college, a career or both.

Last spring, your student took the state English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics tests and may also have taken the state science (grades 5, 8 and 11) or social studies (grades 4 and 7) tests called the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). The CMAS ELA and Mathematics tests were developed in collaboration with a consortium of states known as PARCC (the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career). Enclosed please find the Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) report for your student's CMAS ELA, Math, Science and/or Social Studies performance.

Your child's scores reflect state expectations and describe your child's performance in ELA and math as well as where your child needs to grow. The CMAS ELA and Math tests include five performance levels:

- Level 1: Did not yet meet expectations
- Level 2: Partially met expectations
- Level 3: Approached expectations
- Level 4: Met expectations
- Level 5: Exceeded expectations

The CMAS Science and Social Studies tests include four performance levels:

- Level 1: Partially met expectations
- Level 2: Approached expectations
- Level 3: Met expectations
- Level 4: Exceeded expectations

These tests are designed to prepare Colorado students for globally competitive college and career opportunities with a focus on developing critical thinking, problem solving and analytical skills.

Students in the top two performance levels, met expectations and exceeded expectations, are considered on track to being college and career-ready in that subject area by CDE. The score report also provides information about your child's performance on specific skills within English language arts and mathematics, so you can see where your student is excelling or needs additional support. Each area includes a description of the skills needed to demonstrate a clear understanding of grade-level standards.

Because the new standards reflect higher expectations, we anticipate fewer students will score in the higher performance levels. However, this doesn't mean students are performing worse. Rather, we've raised the bar of expectations.

We're making improvements in our teaching to better help all students meet these new, more challenging standards so they'll be successful when entering college and a career after graduating.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Terry Glen  
Principal  
Vanguard Classical School, West

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[www.vanguardclassical.org](http://www.vanguardclassical.org)

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