

From the Office of the Principal

March 22, 2018

Dear DSA Families of Junior Students,

As you know the week of April 9th, DSA juniors have two very important tests: the CMAS science test and the SAT.

### **April 9**

The CMAS science test contains three tests – 50 minutes each. Students should be done at approximately 11:15 am. They are released to go home for the remainder of the day.

### **April 10**

The SAT contains four parts – each different lengths of time. Students should be done at approximately noon. They are released to go home for the rest of the day.

It is an expectation that all DSA juniors take *both* tests. We are providing students a 1/2 day off for each of these tests which is the first time we've ever done this. You will have all afternoon on Monday to rest up for the SAT on Tuesday.

Even though an opt out option is available for CMAS, if more than 5% of our juniors opt out, we start receiving zero scores for those juniors. We have worked hard to become a “distinguished” BLUE school in DPS. With this BLUE designation also comes a significant boost to the school's budget. In a time when money to schools is very tight this opt out decision can impact our budget, which in turn impacts school staffing. With our current budget allotment, 97.7% of the budget goes toward staff salaries and benefits. Furthermore, a lower school rating has a significant impact on teacher pay, which in turn impacts teacher turnover.

When your student applies to colleges next fall, we submit a “school profile”. This profile explains to colleges what “type” of school we have as well as our ‘performance’ on state and district report cards. Doing well at a high performing school is a positive mark on any college application. Our test scores count for over 1/2 of our overall rating. Therefore, I not only ask and expect that all students take both tests but that all students try their very best. If you have already made the decision to “opt” out I ask that you reconsider your decision.

I look forward to seeing you on both days. I wish you the best on both tests.

Sincerely,

**D E N V E R S C H O O L *of the* A R T S**

From the Office of the Principal

*William M Kohut*

William M. Kohut,  
Principal, Denver School of the Arts

