

Denver

School of the

Arts

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Principal

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Dear DSA Parent/Guardians,

Yesterday a letter regarding PARCC and CMAS testing was posted on the DSA web page and you were notified of this posting through the IC Messenger. Following this posting several parents have contacted the school and asked for further clarification about the Colorado Department of Education's stand on "Parent Refusal" for PARCC Testing. Unfortunately, the message from the Colorado Department of Education and most publications and social media posts fail to mention that each district is required by law to develop and implement their own accountability systems. Under local control, district boards can still make a decision to hold schools accountable to their own measures. In this case, the Denver Public Schools is still holding all schools accountable to the Denver Public Schools School Performance Framework (SPF). If a student doesn't take the assessments they will be counted as a zero score and this score will impact our school's overall growth and status scores, thus impacting our school performance rating. Furthermore, we must meet the Colorado Department of Education 95% threshold of testing all students in grades 6-11. Both of these parameters could have a negative impact on our overall school budget.

In sharing this information we want you to have another piece of information in weighing your decision on this important matter. Please let any member of the administration know if you would like to discuss this further in person or over the phone. If you still want to pursue a refusal to allow your student to be tested you will need to contact Mr. John Delaney, Principal Resident and make an appointment with him to complete the district Non-Participation Request form that must be filed with the district. You can contact Mr. Delaney by calling the main office at (720) 424-1700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William M. Kohut".

William Kohut
Principal