

Denver

School of the

Arts

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Principal

7111 MONTVIEW BLVD
DENVER, COLORADO 80220

Phone (720) 424-1700

Fax (720) 424-1845

<http://dsa.dpsk12.org>



Dear DSA High School Students and Parent/Guardians,

I want to take a moment to make talk with you about our state testing as we near the end of the first week of testing. I have talked to numerous high school students this week who have shared with me the immense pride that they have in both saying that they attend a distinguished school and being able to write that they attend a distinguished school on their applications to college. After four days of testing our attendance for testing is sitting at 99.2%, that is less than one percent that have opted out of testing at the middle school level. I want to personally thank all of our middle school kids and their teachers this week for their work with testing.

On another note, I want to remind all of our high school students that testing for high school students begins next week. I know that many of our students are still talking about the consequences if you choose to opt out of testing. These are important discussions for you and family to engage in. I want to remind all of you that opt outs count as zero scores for each student. These in turn impact our SPF, which could in turn impact our distinguished school rating, and our budget allocations. In addition, I learned yesterday that the Denver Public Schools would continue the practice of reporting your testing scores on your official transcripts. What this means is that if you opt out of testing these are reported as zero scores on your official transcripts.

I had very productive conversation with students from our student council this week. Student voice is very important to me. In the coming weeks I have encouraged our student council to schedule a forum with state legislators for students to voice their concerns about testing so your voices can be heard. The greatest impact we can make is with our legislative body. I have already met with my state representative and discussed my concerns.

I encourage all of our high school students to come to testing next week and for you to do your best. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

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

William Kohut

Principal