



Canyon del Oro High School

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

In November 2014, the Arizona State Board of Education adopted a new statewide achievement test for Arizona students called AzMERIT. This new assessment was given to Arizona students in grades 3 through high school for the first time in the spring of 2015. It replaces the previously administered AIMS test in reading, writing, and math. AIMS Science tests were still given to students in grades 4, 8, and in high school.

On Friday, November 20, we will be sharing your child's results from last year with you. The results will be given to your student during their 3rd period class. You will receive a comprehensive family score report with detailed information about how your child performed on both the English language arts and math portions of the AzMERIT test. Here are a few important things to keep in mind:

- **Teachers have multiple ways they measure student learning. AzMERIT is just one of those tools.** Throughout the school year, there are many ways teachers assess how students are doing in their classroom, including classwork, homework, quizzes, projects, and teacher observations about your child's growth. The results from AzMERIT should be used along with all of this information to ensure your child is on track to succeed.
- **This is a transition year for Arizona schools.** AzMERIT looks different from previous tests because it is a new test and is setting a higher bar for what students need to know and be able to do. Teachers, students and parents are all making adjustments and getting used to the modified way teachers are teaching and students are learning. This year's test results may seem lower than what you have come to expect from your child. There is no need to be alarmed, because that is what we expect during this transition. It doesn't mean your child is doing worse. Instead the scores will provide a more accurate view of how your child is doing.
- **We are on the right track.** Arizona is asking more from our students so they can achieve to their full potential. The AzMERIT test goes beyond the previous bubble test by measuring a wide range of real-world skills, like critical thinking, problem-solving, and analysis. For high school students, this exam is NOT required for graduation. It is, however, the most accurate tool available to measure whether your child is mastering the skills we expect of our young people.

Arizona is working hard to get the scoring right on these new tests; that's why you are receiving last year's results well after the start of this school year. We know it is frustrating for parents and teachers to receive the scores now, but in subsequent years, the goal is to have scores available by the end of the same school year, so teachers and parents have a clear understanding of each student's strengths and areas for improvement.

Sincerely,

Paul DeWeerd
Principal