

May 1, 2017

Dear Parent / Guardian,

In May, most of the ninth and tenth grade students will be participating in the Keystone Exams. The test dates are set for May 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, and 23. These assessments are given at the end of particular courses and are designed to determine overall proficiency in each subject area. Students are required to take these tests in Mathematics (Algebra I), Science (Biology), and English (Literature). Beginning with the Class of 2019, the students have to score at least at the “Proficient” level in each test to complete the graduation requirements issued by the commonwealth. The test results also give us useful information to help evaluate our curriculum, teaching, student engagement, and overall effort.

As a parent / guardian, you have the right to review the Keystone exams prior to the tests being given to the students. You can review these tests for two weeks through the testing period. After reviewing the tests, if you believe there is a conflict with your religious beliefs, you must notify the superintendent of schools in writing outlining the conflict. Here is his mailing address.

Mr. Scot Engler
Superintendent of Schools
680 Fourth Street
Palmerton, PA 18071

You can also contact him via e-mail: sengler@palmerton.org

If you choose to review the tests, there is no need for an appointment. Just come to the main office and you will be directed appropriately. If you should view the tests you will not be permitted to make copies and must sign a statement that will attest to the fact that you will maintain confidentiality.

During the actual tests, students are not permitted to have any electronic devices with them. If they enter the classroom with a device, we are required by the commonwealth to collect it. We will make sure the cell phone is kept in a secure location if they choose to bring the cell phone to school. The device will be returned after the exam is completed. Please remind your child of this restriction

We have also been identifying ways to ensure that our students have optimal test taking conditions. You can certainly help us. Please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest each

night before the test. Also, please make sure that they eat a good breakfast before coming to school. Also, please make sure that your child has money to purchase a lunch or brings a lunch from home as some of the testing is scheduled after lunch.

As always, students will be able to have bottled water during the testing process. We will also provide a small snack to the students along with pencils and erasers. If your child has a personal calculator in school, they will be allowed to use it during the testing. If your child does not have a calculator, we will provide one during the testing.

Finally, we ask that you make sure that your child is in school on the test days. Make-ups are not conducive to positive test taking results. Your child will be notified of the actual testing schedule as we get closer to the testing days.

As always if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Husar
Principal

cc: S. Engler - Superintendent
V. McHugh - Guidance Counselor (Grades 9-10)
B. Witkowski - Guidance Counselor (Grades 11-12)
D. Heaney - Director of Technology & Curriculum and Instruction