

HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 1 Huntingdon, PA 16652
Phone: (814)643-1080 Fax: (814)643-3800 Website: <http://huntsd.org>

Mr. Travis R. Lee,
Principal

Mrs. Kristen C. Streightiff,
Assistant Principal

"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"

May 2, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son or daughter will be taking the Keystone Exam in Algebra I, Biology, and/or Literature during May, 2022. **The Algebra I exam will be given on Tuesday, May 17, the Literature exam will take place on Wednesday, May 18, and the Biology exam on Thursday, May 19. The exams that each student is scheduled for is listed on the reverse side of this message.** Students will receive information about their testing locations via email the week prior to the exams. ***Learners in the online BILD program must participate in the exams.*** Make-ups will take place May 20-27, 2022, though they will be scheduled to be completed as soon as possible after the original testing date. Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center (**HCCTC**) ***students that are scheduled to take the exams will remain at HAHS the entire day. HCCTC students not testing should still be reporting to the CTC,*** following their regular HAHS morning schedule.

The Keystone Exams are a key component to satisfying one of the possible five graduation pathways as part of the state's Act 158 graduation requirements. These requirements are in effect for the Class of 2023 (current juniors) and beyond. An enclosed letter indicates the requirements for testing and opting out procedures. The school has yet to receive official student performance records for the Winter 2021 exam session. These records will be forwarded to families promptly once received. Students will receive a school-issued copy of their results to take home for review. The school is still able to schedule the exam retakes for those that did not reach a proficiency level, or at this time, have yet to meet a graduation pathway.

The purpose of these tests is to assess the proficiency of students in the three subject areas. Students will be offered multiple opportunities to take the Keystones throughout their high school career. For school accountability measures, learners are to demonstrate proficiency on these assessments by the end of their junior year. The Keystone Exams serve as an important benchmark for school performance and the information gathered from the exams plays an important part in curriculum planning and professional learning, and is connected to the teacher and school evaluation process. Please note that additional considerations will be in place for future re-testing, such as earning an overall composite score on the exams, previous growth on re-tests, predictions for expected performance, and alternative graduation pathways (including for HCCTC students that are on track to receive their industry credentials).

The tests are set up to assess the PA Core Standards which are aligned with expectations for success in college and the workplace. Each Keystone Exam should take the typical learner 2 to 3 hours to complete. There are two modules on each test and each module of the Keystone should take 1 to 1.5 hours to complete. Each test includes both multiple-choice and open-ended questions. Sixty to 75% of the total score is from multiple-choice questions with the remainder from open-ended questions. There will be a morning and afternoon testing session for each exam. All exams will be paper-based.

It is important for your son or daughter to get plenty of rest the night before the test and a good breakfast the morning of the test. Students will be notified of the specific exams that they will be taking via email. ***It is important that your student does their best on the exams. Student performance on state assessments will be one factor used when designing future student schedules.*** However, please note that performance on the exams does not solely define their educational performance, and not all learning can be quantified on an exam. Please review the enclosed document, provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), for additional information in regards to the exams.

In light of increased state accountability measures, the school district will be enforcing measures that ensure test security. Students will indicate on the test that they are aware of and will abide by the Code of Conduct for Test Takers (a sample is enclosed). Students will not be permitted to bring any electronic devices or purses and bags to the testing rooms. Students will be reminded of this upon the commencement of the testing period. In addition, the district may need to contact guardians if there is a violation of this policy, and discipline, including monetary damages, may be administered if there are breaches in test security.

Please wish your learners luck on the exams, and if you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the school office at (814)643-1080. As always, we strive to provide the best possible education for your learners, and we cannot do this without your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mr. Travis R. Lee,
HAHS Principal

Enclosures

Learner Name _____

Exams to be Taken (as indicated by being circled)

Algebra I (5/17)

Literature (5/18)

Biology (5/19)