

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,
Secondary Principal

Mr. Brent A. Stoltzfus,
Assistant Principal

"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"

To: Learners, Parents, and Guardians
From: Mr. Travis R. Lee, High School Principal
Re: HAHS Keystone Exam Update Memo
Date: April 28, 2021

The spring 2021 Keystone Exams are scheduled for Tuesday, May 18 (Literature), Wednesday, May 19 (Algebra I), and Thursday, May 20 (Biology). ***The exams are scheduled for learners currently in Biology, English 10, or an Algebra I course.*** Learners that are scheduled to take the exams will receive a follow-up letter with additional information with the specific exams that learners will be taking will be listed (a sample letter is attached to this memo). With a change in graduation requirements during the pandemic, and with not having a spring 2020 or winter 2020 testing session, please review the notes below.

- **Special Notes**

- Keystone Exam graduation requirements, as part of the Act 158 pathways to satisfy graduation requirements, were delayed. These requirements now impact the Class of 2023 (current sophomores).
- The Class of 2022 (current juniors) will not be taking the Keystone Exams, unless a learner was not previously in a Keystone course, and has not previously taken, or been scheduled to take, an exam. This impacts a very small amount of learners
- Learners that were in a Keystone Course during the 19-20 school year, and successfully passed the HAHS course, are ***deemed to be proficient*** for accountability purposes
 - These learners do not need to take the exams
 - Learners may take the exams if they wish. This may help those that are current sophomores (and would have been scheduled in an Algebra I or Honors Biology course last year), and would like the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge at the advanced level, or to earn a score that can be used as part of the composite school graduation requirement
 - Learners that need additional details about this option, and would like to test, should contact Mr. Lee
- HAHS previously delayed our winter Keystone Exams due to our move to remote learning in December.
 - During the spring 2021 Keystone exams, all learners will continue to attend HAHS. There will not be a hybrid schedule during the exams

If learners have any questions regarding the exams, they may see their school counselor or Mr. Lee. Remember that the exams are part of the graduation requirements for the Class of 2023 and below.

Sincerely,

Travis R. Lee,
HAHS Principal

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April 28, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son or daughter will be taking the Keystone Exam in Algebra I, Biology, and/or Literature during May, 2021. **The Literature exam will be given on Tuesday, May 18, the Algebra I exam will take place on Wednesday, May 19, and the Biology exam on Thursday, May 20. The exams that each learner is scheduled for is listed on the reverse side of this message.** Learners will receive information about their testing locations via email the week prior to the exams. **Learners in the online BILD program should participate in the exams.** Make-ups will take place May 21-28, 2021, though they will be scheduled to be completed as soon as possible after the original testing date.

Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center (**HCCTC**) **learners that are scheduled to take the exams will remain at HAHS the entire day. HCCTC learners not testing should still be reporting to the CTC.**

The Keystone Exams serve as part of the graduation requirements for the Class of 2023 (current sophomores) and beyond. The purpose of these tests is to assess the proficiency of learners in the three subject areas. Learners 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 for HCCTC learners 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. Learners will be notified of the specific exams that they will be taking via email. It is important that your learner does their best on the exams. 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. Learners 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). Learners will not be permitted to bring any electronic devices or purses and bags to the testing rooms. Learners 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)

Literature (5/18)

Algebra I (5/19)

Biology (5/20)