Dear Parents/Guardians:

This is just a reminder that the Fort Cherry School District will administer the Keystone Exams May 13-20 in morning sessions. As a reminder, the Keystone Exams are mandated by the PA Department of Education as a graduation requirement.

The Keystone Exams are end of course exams that take place at the end of designated courses. Students are required to take the exams at the end of the designated courses and retake them if they do not earn at least a proficient score. Retakes are required through the end of grade 11.

Students who are in the following courses are required to take the Keystone Exams as end of course exams:

* English Literature (English 10, Honors English 10)
* Algebra (Algebra 1, Algebra 1B)
* Biology (Biology 1, Honors Biology 1)

If students do not earn a proficient score after their first attempt, they must retake it through their junior year or until they earn a proficient score. For all students who must retake at least one (1) exam, their parents/guardians were previously notified.

The Keystone Exam schedule follows:

* Literature Exam – May 13-14
* Algebra Exam – May 15-16
* Biology Exam – May 17-20

Please note that testing will occur during periods 1-4. Students who attend Parkway West CTC will be permitted to leave for lunch/dismissal after period 3 if they are finished with the test section.

**Testing Days**
Please make sure your son/daughter gets a restful night of sleep during the testing week. Students may bring water bottles or other appropriate drinks for testing. Please remember that caffeinated/energy drinks are not permitted on the school campus. Students may also bring chewing gum and/or mints; however, food is not permitted during testing times. Students should wear comfortable, appropriate clothes on testing days, as they will be sitting more during testing. Students will be given breaks throughout the day, as is permissible by the PA Department of Education testing requirements. Students are NOT permitted to have any personal electronic devices in their possession during testing. This includes SMART phones, iPads, airpods, SMART watches, etc. Chromebooks will remain in students' backpacks. All personal devices will be collected during testing hours. To reward our students for giving their best efforts on the tests, each student who completes both modules of the exam(s) they are required to complete will receive a ticket (one per exam) for a drawing for gift card prizes at the end of the testing window. Those prizes will be announced as we get closer to the start of the testing window.

**Absence on Testing Days**
If your child misses one or more days of testing for any reason (illness, appointments, etc.), there will be make-up sessions through the end of the testing window. There are no official make-up days scheduled. Mrs. Wilson will do make-ups as needed once students return to school. If you know that your child will miss testing, you may let your school counselor know by email, but you are not required to notify us in advance. Any questions regarding make-ups may be directed to your school counselor.

**Graduation Pathways**
It is important that students do their best on the exams. As stated, the PA Department of Education requires students to meet one of the graduation pathways to graduate. The most direct way for students to meet this requirement is to earn a Proficient or Advanced score on all three (3) exams – Biology, English Literature, and Algebra. The Graduation Pathways include:

1. Keystone Proficiency Pathway
2. Keystone Composite Pathway
3. Career & Technical Concentrator Pathway
4. Alternative Assessment Pathway
5. Evidence-based Pathway

**Additional Information**
For more information about the Keystone Exams and Graduation Pathways, please click [Fort Cherry HS website](https://www.fortcherry.org/content.aspx?id=4004).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Wilson, ewilson@fortcherry.org.

Thank you!
Dr. Craig