



January 8, 2009

Dear Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Parents:

On October 28, part of a letter I sent to all freshman, sophomore, and junior parents described a new graduation requirement involving state-mandated End-of-Course tests for all students who entered the ninth grade for the first time during the 2006-2007 school year, the 2007-2008 school year, or the 2008-2009 school year on the Career Preparation, College Technical Preparation, or College/University Preparation Course of Study. Under this new requirement, these students have to score a Level III or higher on the North Carolina End-of-Course tests in Algebra I, Biology, English I, Civics & Economics, and U.S. History to graduate from high school. A student enrolled in one of these courses during the Fall 2008 semester who does not make a Level III or higher on its End-of-Course test during the regular exam administration on January 16, January 20, January 21, and/or January 22 will be given up to two retest opportunities to satisfy the new graduation requirement, provided he/she passes the course with the first exam's grade factored into the overall course grade. Please note that, by state policy, the exam grade for courses associated with End-of-Course tests counts as 25% of the overall course grade.

Our school plans to give any needed retests associated with these End-of-Course tests on the day following the first administration of the test. This retest will be scheduled at a time that does not interfere with the regularly-scheduled exam for the day. School staff members will notify students in need of a retest upon our receipt of test scores from the state. In the case of a student needing a second retest in one of these courses, these exams will be administered on January 27.

It is important to note that the grade a student received on his/her first attempt at an End-of-Course test (associated with the previously identified five courses) will be the only one factored into the overall course grade. The retest opportunities only give a student a chance to satisfy the state's requirement that he/she make a Level III or higher on the End-of-Course tests in these identified courses to graduate from high school. Thus, I ask that you strongly encourage your child to adequately prepare for the first exam administration on January 16, January 20, January 21, and/or January 22 due to its potential influence on his/her academic standing at our school. Also, such preparation can prevent additional testing and possible interruptions to the start of his/her second semester classes.

Respectfully,

Stephen Gainey  
Principal