

January 9, 2007

Dear Freshman Parents:

On October 9, part of a letter I sent to all freshman 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 on the Career Preparation, College Technical Preparation, or College University Preparation Course of Study. Under this new requirement, members of this group of freshmen 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 2006 semester who does not make a Level III or higher on its End-of-Course test during the regular exam administration on January 17 and/or January 18 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 retests for first and second period Biology, Civics & Economics, and U.S. History classes to students eligible to take them on January 19 at 7:45 a.m. Retests associated with third and fourth period Biology, Civics & Economics, and U.S. History classes will be given on January 23 at 7:45 a.m. 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 child needing a second retest in one of these courses, it will be administered on January 26 after the school's provision of academic intervention on January 24 and/or January 25. All retesting for English I and Algebra I classes will be scheduled at a later date due to the state's need to delay the release of those scores for several weeks.

It is important to note that the grade a child 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 17 and/or January 18 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