

December 11, 2025

Keystone Exams

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On January 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, and 13, many of our high school students will be participating in the Keystone Exams. These tests are administered at the end of specific courses and are required for students enrolled in Algebra I (Mathematics), Biology (Science), and English 10 (Literature). The exams are designed to assess proficiency in these subject areas and provide valuable information to help evaluate curriculum, teaching, student engagement, and effort.

The Keystone Exams are mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and are a graduation requirement. Test scores are reported on student transcripts and classified as **Advanced, Proficient, Basic, or Below Basic**, with **Proficient** and **Advanced** considered passing. Students taking Accelerated Algebra I, Algebra I (semester course), Biology, or English 10 as first-semester courses will be tested. Additionally, students who previously took the exams but did not achieve a Proficient or Advanced score will also retest during this period.

Testing Schedule:

- **English 10 (Literature):** January 6 & 7
- **Biology:** January 8 & 9
- **Algebra I:** January 12 & 13
- **Make-up days:** January 14 & 15

Parents/guardians have the right to review the Keystone exams prior to the testing period, from **January 5 through January 9**. To review the tests, contact Ms. Kelly Beblavy at 610-826-7101 ext. 5012 or **kbeblavy@palmerton.org**. Since the tests are administered online, she will provide instructions for access. If you believe any test content conflicts with your beliefs, you must notify the Superintendent in writing.

Superintendent Contact:

Dr. Angela Friebolin
680 Fourth Street
Palmerton, PA 18071
Email: **afriebolin@palmerton.org**

During testing, students are **not permitted to have electronic devices**. If a device is brought into the classroom, it must be collected in accordance with Commonwealth regulations and will be returned after testing. The Pennsylvania Department of Education notes:

“In an era of cell phones, smartphones, smart watches, and other electronic devices which can easily photograph and instantly share photographs, confidential and secure test materials can easily be compromised. Penalties for violations of the Copyright Act may include the cost of replacing the compromised test item(s) or fines of no less than \$750 up to \$30,000 for a single violation.”

Please remind your child of this restriction.

We are committed to providing optimal testing conditions for students. You can help by ensuring your child gets sufficient rest each night before testing and eats a healthy breakfast on test days.

Students may have bottled water during testing. The school will provide a small snack, pencils, erasers, and calculators. Students may bring their own calculators only if approved by a teacher.

Attendance on test days is essential, as make-ups are not ideal for positive results. Students will be notified of their individual testing schedules.

Students who do not achieve a **Proficient** score may require adjustments to their school schedule for remediation once scores are received in March.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Paula A. Husar
Principal

cc:

Dr. A. Friebolin – Superintendent

Dr. D. Heaney – Asst. Superintendent for Academic Programs and Technology

Ms. K. Beblavy – Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction

V. McHugh – Guidance Counselor, Grades 10 & 11

K. Wertz – Guidance Counselor, Grades 9 & 12

J. Petersen – Assistant Principal & Athletic Coordinator