

May 5, 2026

## **Keystone Exams**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On May 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, and 19, many of our high school students will be participating in the Keystone Exams. These assessments are administered at the end of specific courses and are required for students enrolled in Algebra I (Mathematics), Biology (Science), and English 10 (Literature). All students must attend school on these days and report promptly at 7:30 AM, whether they are testing or not. A regular school day is in session with a special schedule for tested students.

The Keystone Exams are designed to assess student proficiency in these subject areas. The results provide valuable information that helps us evaluate curriculum, instruction, student engagement, and effort. These exams are also mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and are a graduation requirement. Scores will be reported on student transcripts, with performance levels identified as Advanced, Proficient, Basic, or Below Basic. A passing score is Proficient or Advanced.

Students currently enrolled in Algebra I Academic, Algebra I Essentials (full-year), Biology, or English 10 during the second semester will participate in testing. In addition, students who previously took a Keystone Exam but did not score Proficient or Advanced will be retesting.

The testing schedule is as follows:

- Biology: May 11 and May 12
- Literature: May 13 and May 14
- Algebra I: May 18 and May 19
- Make-up Days: May 15 and May 20–21

As a parent or guardian, you have the right to review the Keystone Exams prior to the testing window. This review must occur before the exams are administered. To arrange a review, please contact Ms. Kelly Beblavy at 610-826-7101 ext. 5012 or [kbeblavy@palmerton.org](mailto:kbeblavy@palmerton.org). Since the exams are administered online this year, she will provide instructions for access. If, after reviewing the exams, you believe there is a conflict with your beliefs, you must notify Dr. Daniel Heaney or Mr. Ryan Kish in writing, outlining the concern. They can be reached at [dheaney@palmerton.org](mailto:dheaney@palmerton.org) or [rkish@palmerton.org](mailto:rkish@palmerton.org).

During testing, students are not permitted to have any electronic devices. If a student enters the testing room with a device, we are required by the Commonwealth to collect it.

We do not have the option of asking students to store devices in lockers. Devices will be returned after testing is completed. The Pennsylvania Department of Education states:

“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 requirement.

We are committed to providing optimal testing conditions for all students, and your support is important. Please ensure your child gets adequate rest each night and eats a healthy breakfast before coming to school.

Students may bring bottled water during testing. The school will provide a small snack, as well as pencils and erasers. Calculators will also be provided, and an online calculator is available. If a student brings their own calculator, it must be approved by the test administrator.

Finally, please make every effort to ensure your child is present on testing days, as make-up sessions are not ideal for optimal performance. Students will be informed of their specific testing schedules.

If your child does not score at or above the Proficient level, adjustments to their school schedule may be necessary as part of a remediation plan once scores are received over the summer.

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

Sincerely,  
Paula A. Husar  
Principal

cc:

Mr. Ryan Kish – Assistant Superintendent (Finance and Facilities)

Dr. Daniel Heaney – Assistant Superintendent (Academic Programs and Technology)

Ms. Kelly Beblavy – Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. V. McHugh – Guidance Counselor (Grades 10 and 11)

Mr. K. Wertz – Guidance Counselor (Grades 9 and 12)

Mr. J. Petersen – Assistant Principal and Athletic Coordinator