

NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

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A NATIONAL SCHOOL
of
EXCELLENCE

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Dean of Students
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Dear Parents and Guardians:

The New Jersey Department of Education mandates passing the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) as a requirement for graduation. This assessment is administered in the spring of a student's junior year and centers around the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. Core curriculum content standards are an attempt to define the meaning of "thorough" in the context of the 1875 state constitutional guarantee that students are to be educated within a "thorough and efficient" system of free public schools. These standards describe what all students should know and be able to do upon completion of a thirteen-year public education. Students who do not pass the HSPA must continue to retake the HSPA each time it is offered until they pass.

This year, the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) will measure student achievement in the areas of mathematics and language arts literacy on March 2nd, 3rd and 4th. **New Jersey Department of Education directives prohibit backpacks, handbags, cell phones, any other electronic devices, food, and water bottles in the testing areas.** Please remind your children to leave these items in their lockers during testing. Students should have nothing with them other than pencils and a calculator (for math on Tuesday). Ignoring these directives will result in removal from the testing situation. To prepare for this assessment, students should get a good night's rest prior to the test and eat a healthy breakfast each morning. Again, stress to your child the importance of this test. Poor performance can impact his or her graduation.

Passing all sections of the HSPA is a requirement for graduation in the state of New Jersey. In the past, these assessments were administered during the school day while other classes followed their normal schedules. However, in an effort to provide an optimum environment for students taking this important assessment, this year we will be implementing the following schedule:

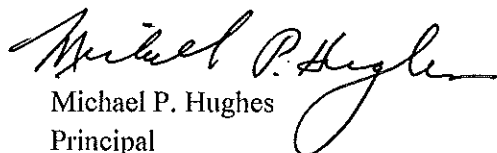
- During HSPA testing, we will be running two bus schedules.
- Students taking the HSPA will get on their buses at their regular times.
- All other students are on a two and one half hour delayed opening schedule. Therefore, students will report to their bus stops two and half hours later than normal.
- Upon arrival to campus, students who are not participating in HSPA testing will enter school through the New Gym and remain there until they are dismissed at the conclusion of testing. Attendance will be taken in the New Gym.
- Students will get on their normal buses at the end of the school day.

Rather than testing in the gyms in large groups, the schedule change allows our students to test in classrooms, which should improve the testing conditions for our students who are taking these high stake tests, while allowing all other students to maintain their normal academic contacts.

- Attendance will be taken in the testing location, so students must report directly to their designated classrooms. Late students cannot be admitted.
- Every student must present a North Hunterdon High School I.D. card or a driver's license each day of testing before they will be allowed to participate in HSPA testing. Photo ID is required for all students who are taking HSPA.
- The students' specific testing locations and any additional information will be sent in a subsequent email.
- At the conclusion of testing, all students will return to their classrooms. An announcement will be made when testing is done.
- All juniors and seniors participating in testing will be dismissed to return to class after they have completed their HSPA requirements for the day. They will go to lunch during their normal lunch periods.
- Students who miss any section due to illness will be advised by their guidance counselors to sit for the makeup sessions scheduled for March 9th, 10th, and 11th.
- Freshmen, sophomores, and those seniors who have successfully completed testing during an earlier administration will attend class when released from the gym.
- Make-up dates for the HSPA will be March 9th, 10th, and 11th for those students who miss any portion of the tests.
- It is a graduation requirement that all students graduating from New Jersey schools pass the HSPA test.
- On the make-up test dates, we will follow normal bus and class schedules.
- Please access our web site at www.nhvweb.net/nhhs for the latest information. This letter is available on the website as well. Anyone with questions about testing can contact Irene Dolan, Assistant Principal, at 713-4192 or idolan@nhvweb.net.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, we want to thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,


Michael P. Hughes
Principal