



South Park High School  
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## South Park School District

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Keystone Exams are rapidly approaching. These exams are tests administered to every public school student in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These exams are designed to be taken as an end-of-course assessment in Algebra I, English and Biology in an effort to measure individual student mastery in the Pennsylvania Core Standards. For example, students typically take Biology during their sophomore year of high school and will take the Biology Keystone Exam at the end of the course in the spring semester. Any student that has not scored proficient or advanced on the Keystone Exams will be scheduled, if possible, to retake the exam during the next Keystone Exam window.

These standards are aligned with expectations for all students to be successful in post-secondary educational settings and in the workplace. The overall student results on these exams also help to evaluate the effectiveness of our school in these courses, as well as individual student achievement.

We look at many factors for preparing students for these exams including curriculum adjustments and remediation courses to assist students achieve the highest scores possible on these exams. Another factor we believe impacts all students' performance is their physical well-being. A good breakfast, getting the proper amount of rest and receiving supportive encouragement are integral to every student's preparedness and focus during these exams.

Please refer to the information pages provided on the South Park High School webpage or visit [www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org) for additional information regarding the Keystone Exams.

Yours in Education,

Dr. David S. Palmer  
Principal, SPS