



## CENTRAL BUCKS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

*Steeped in Tradition, Building on the Legacy, Inspiring the Future*

November 2021

Dear Central Bucks West Families,

As we prepare for the Winter Wave of the Keystone Exams, we wanted to share some important reminders with you as well as the test administration dates.

### **Keystone Exam Participation:**

The Keystone Exams are end of course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the subject areas of Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature. Students will be rostered to sit for the exams based on the following scenarios:

- They are currently enrolled in Algebra 1B, Biology, and/or English 10 for the Fall 2021 Semester.
- They opted out of taking any of the exams during the 2020-2021 school year.
- They did not meet proficiency in one or more of the exams during the 2020-2021 school year.

A parent/guardian may choose to opt their child out of taking the exam(s) if the exams conflict with your religious beliefs as per PA Code 22, Chapter 4.4. To opt your child out of taking one or more Keystone Exam(s), a parent/guardian must complete the following actions required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE):

1. Email Justin Rubenstein, CB West’s School Assessment Coordinator, at [jrubenstein@cbsd.org](mailto:jrubenstein@cbsd.org) to request an appointment to view the exam(s) to determine if they conflict with your religious beliefs.
2. Report to CB West at appointed time and sign Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Confidentiality Agreement prior to viewing the exams.
3. Complete the religious opt out request form for submission to the Superintendent of the Central Bucks School District if you find the exam(s) conflict with your religious beliefs.

***These actions must be completed no later than Friday, December 17, 2021.***

### **Winter 2021-2022 Keystone Exam Administration:**

The Keystone Exams will be facilitated online, and students will use their district issued 1:1 laptop to complete the exam(s). All Health & Safety guidelines will be adhered to during the testing sessions.

<b>CB WEST KEYSTONE EXAM SCHEDULE FOR WINTER WAVE I &amp; II</b>	
<b>Keystone Biology</b>	<p><b>Thursday, January 6, 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:25am-2:30pm only students who are scheduled to sit for the Keystone Biology Exam and students who are eligible to take the PASA exam will report to the building.</li> <li>• MBIT students who are scheduled to sit for the Keystone Biology Exam will stay at CB West for the exam.</li> <li>• All non-testing students will receive asynchronous instruction online.</li> <li>• District Transportation will run as scheduled.</li> </ul> <p><i>Make-up testing will be arranged on an individual basis with the School Assessment Coordinator.</i></p>

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<p><b>Keystone Literature</b></p>	<p><b>Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:25am-2:30pm only students who are scheduled to sit for the Keystone Literature Exam and students who are eligible to take the PASA exam will report to the building.</li> <li>• MBIT students who are scheduled to sit for the Keystone Literature Exam will stay at CB West for the exam.</li> <li>• All non-testing students will receive asynchronous instruction online.</li> <li>• District Transportation will run as scheduled.</li> </ul> <p><i>Make-up testing will be arranged on an individual basis with the School Assessment Coordinator.</i></p>
<p><b>Keystone Algebra I</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday, January 11, 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:25am-2:30pm only students who are scheduled to sit for the Keystone Algebra 1 Exam and students who are eligible to take the PASA exam will report to the building.</li> <li>• MBIT students who are scheduled to sit for the Keystone Algebra I Keystone Exam will stay at CB West for the exam.</li> <li>• All non-testing students will receive asynchronous instruction online.</li> <li>• District Transportation will run as scheduled.</li> </ul> <p><i>Make-up testing will be arranged on an individual basis with the School Assessment Coordinator</i></p>

**Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2023 and beyond:**

PA Act 158 states that students in the Class of 2023 and beyond are required to demonstrate proficiency in Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology to earn a diploma by completing one of the following pathways:

1. **Keystone Proficiency Pathway:** Passing all three Keystone Exams (Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature)
2. **Composite Score Pathway:** Scoring proficient or advanced on at least one Keystone Exam and scoring at least Basic on the other two Keystone Exams with a minimum composite score of 4452.
3. **Career & Technical Pathway:** Earning a passing grade in a Keystone-aligned course **AND** either:
  - Attaining an industry-based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrator’s program of study

**OR**

- Demonstrating a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based competency assessment or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the CTE Concentrator’s program of study

4. **Alternate Assessment Pathway** – Earning a passing grade in a Keystone-aligned course **AND** one of the following:
  - Attain the minimum score on one of the following subject-aligned tests: AP (3); PSAT (970); SAT (1010); ACT (21); ASVAB (minimum score required to gain admittance to a branch of the military)

**OR**

- Successfully complete a concurrent enrollment course in a subject-aligned course (a list of courses is pending)

**OR**

- Be accepted in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education

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5. **Evidence-Based Pathway** – Earning a passing grade in a Keystone-aligned course **AND** three pieces of evidence

- **At least one of the following:**
  - Attainment of a minimum score ACT WorkKeys assessment, SAT subject-test, or Advanced Placement Exam
  - Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework
  - Attainment of an industry-recognized credential
  - Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course
- **Two additional pieces from the following:**
  - *Satisfactory completion of a service-learning project (currently under development)*
  - Attainment of a score of proficient or advanced on a Keystone Exam
  - A letter guaranteeing full-time employment
  - Certificate of successful completion of an internship or cooperative education
  - Satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core courses for college-bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.

**Important Note About Opting Out of Keystone Exams**

While families can opt-out of the exams based on their religious beliefs, it does not exempt students in the Class of 2023 and beyond from the graduation requirements enacted with Act 158. ***Please understand that students in the Class of 2023 and beyond are required to demonstrate proficiency in Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology by successfully completing one of the 5 Pathways above.***

If you have questions about the Keystone exams or the 5 Pathways, please contact your child's school counselor or house principal.

Sincerely,

CB West Administration