



## CENTRAL BUCKS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

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

April 2022

Dear Central Bucks West Families of the Class of 2023 & Class of 2024,

As we prepare for the Spring 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 must sit for the exams at least once per federal regulations.** They 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 Spring 2022 Semester.
- They are a current junior (Class of 2023) and do not have a score for one or more of the required Keystone Exams required by the state to graduate from high school.
- Their best score on any of the Keystone Exams is Basic or Below Basic and they have not earned a minimum composite score of 4452 (see **Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2023 and beyond below for more details**).

**Please Note:** Any 11th grader who was not proficient on a Keystone Exam earlier this year will be scheduled to retest during the May testing window.

A parent/guardian may choose to exempt their child from participating in the exam(s) for religious reasons if the tested content is found to conflict with their religious beliefs as per PA Code 22, Chapter 4.4. To exempt your child for religious reasons from participating in one or more Keystone Exam(s), a parent/guardian must complete the following actions required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE):

1. Email Mr. Justin Rubenstein, CB West 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 the appointed time and sign PDE'S Confidentiality Agreement prior to viewing the exams.
3. Write a letter to the Superintendent of schools for Central Bucks School District, Dr. Abram M. Lucabaugh, stating the specific exam you want your child exempt from for religious reasons. Submit the letter to Mr. Justin Rubenstein, CB West School Assessment Coordinator, at [jrubenstein@cbsd.org](mailto:jrubenstein@cbsd.org).

***These actions must be completed no later than Friday, May 13, 2022.***

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**Spring 2021-2022 Keystone Exam Administration:**

The Keystone Biology & Literature Exams will be facilitated online, and students will use their district issued 1:1 laptop to complete the exam(s). The Keystone Algebra I Exam will be facilitated using paper and pencil.

<b>CB West Spring Keystone Exam Administration Schedule</b>	
<b>Keystone Biology Exam 5/18/2022</b>	<p><b>Keystone Biology Exam Testing Day</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 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 from home.</li><li>• Lunches will be available for students in the cafeteria in between testing modules.</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>
<b>Keystone Literature Exam 5/19/2022</b>	<p><b>Keystone Literature Exam Testing Day</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 take the PASA exam will report to the building.</li><li>• MBIT students who are scheduled to sit for the Literature Keystone Exam will stay at CB West for the exam.</li><li>• All non-testing students will receive asynchronous instruction online from home.</li><li>• Lunches will be available for students in the cafeteria in between testing modules.</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>
<b>Keystone Algebra I Exam 5/23/2022</b>	<p><b>Keystone Algebra I Exam Testing Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7:25am-2:30pm only students who are scheduled to sit for the Keystone Algebra I Exam and students who take the PASA exam will report to the building.</li><li>• MBIT students who are scheduled to sit for the Keystone Algebra I Exam will stay at CB West for the exam.</li><li>• All non-testing students will receive asynchronous instruction online from home.</li><li>• Lunches will be available for students in the cafeteria in between testing modules.</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:

- **Keystone Proficiency Pathway:** Passing (Proficient or Advanced score) all three Keystone Exams (Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature)
- **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 (total when score from Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature are added together).

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- **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
- **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
- **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 Religious Exemptions**

Although a student may receive a religious exemption from participating in one or more exam, this does not exempt a student 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 Administrative Team