

**Philip B. Gale, Ed.D.**  
**Principal**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In past years, students in grades 3-8 and 11 were administered a series of Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA) exams in the areas of math, reading, writing, and science in order to determine whether students were making grade appropriate progress. Starting this year, the high school PSSA will be replaced with a new assessment system known as the Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams. Scores from the exam will be used to determine student proficiency and to calculate whether the school is making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The scores for students beginning with the graduating class of 2017 will also be used to determine graduation eligibility.

This year, all students in grade 11 must participate in Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams. In addition, students in grades 9 and 10 enrolled in a Keystone related course in the first semester or who already completed a Keystone related course should participate in the assessment. The state will use the results of the Algebra 1 and Literature tests to determine whether Penn Manor High School will make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

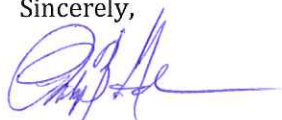
Penn Manor High School will be administering the Keystone tests in Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams to all juniors and students in Keystone related courses in January 2013. The school will operate on a modified schedule on the following dates to accommodate the time needed for each exam:

- Algebra 1 Keystone Exam – January 9 & 10
- Biology Keystone Exam – January 11
- Literature Keystone Exam – January 14 & 15

The exams will be administered again in May 2013 for any juniors who did not score Proficient or Advanced in January and for students enrolled in a Keystone related course during the second semester. Juniors who do not meet proficiency in January will need to participate in Keystone prep sessions in the spring during homeroom.

In preparation for the Keystone Exams, your child has completed course work aligned to the state standards and participated in benchmark assessments for each of the tested areas. Additionally, select juniors have been involved in fall prep sessions to help ready them for the January assessments. We recognize that ensuring your child's success at school is a collaborative effort involving parents, teachers, and students. Please encourage your son or daughter during the exam period as we strive to create the best environment possible for their achievement. Thank you for your continued support of your child's academic growth.

Sincerely,



Philip Gale, Ed.D.  
Principal