



# MARPLE NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

120 Media Line Road  
Newtown Square, Pennsylvania 19073-4696  
(610) 359-4218 • Fax: (610) 356-2194

John Beltrante  
*PRINCIPAL*

Christian Jaspersen  
*ASST. PRINCIPAL*

Christa Palladino  
*ASST. PRINCIPAL*

Don Tabar  
*ASST. PRINCIPAL*

Chris Gicking  
*ATHLETIC DIRECTOR*

April 13, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this communication is to provide families with information related to the 2021 Spring Keystone Exams. The first section includes information regarding who will take the Keystone Exams and when the tests will be administered. The second section contains information related to opt-out procedures and/or parental refusals.

## Keystone Dates and Information:

As mentioned in Dr. Kane's letter sent on March 17, the United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) are requiring all schools to administer state testing for the 2020-2021 school year. All students who are currently enrolled in a Keystone course will be expected to take the test(s). All other students will participate in asynchronous work from home on the test dates. However, we will hold regular in-person instruction on exam make-up dates. For your planning purposes, Marple Newtown High School will administer the online version of the Keystone Exams on the dates below. Test dates and make-up dates will follow the regular student day, 7:40 AM- 2:35 PM.

Assessment	Test Date	Make-Up Dates (Additional dates will be added as needed)
<b>Literature Keystone</b> (All 10 <sup>th</sup> grade English classes)	<b>Wednesday, May 19</b> Module 1 in the morning Module 2 in the afternoon	<b>Thursday, May 20</b>
<b>Algebra I Keystone</b> (All Algebra I and Algebra I- Part B classes)	<b>Wednesday, May 26</b> Module 1 in the morning Module 2 in the afternoon	<b>Thursday, May 27</b>
<b>Biology Keystone</b> (All Biology and Pre AP Biology classes)	<b>Wednesday, June 2</b> Module 1 in the morning Module 2 in the afternoon	<b>Thursday, June 3</b>

Marple Newtown School District must follow the state and federal mandate to administer the Keystone Exams. Although some flexibility was provided with regard to the testing window, USDE and PDE both affirmed their commitment to the administration of the assessments for the current school year.

Marple Newtown High School will continue to adhere to all safety protocols during Keystone test administration. It is important to note that students must attend **in person** when the Keystone Exams are administered. There is no virtual administration option available for students. For those families who have elected to keep their children in the fully virtual environment, classroom space will be provided during the in-person testing sessions. A more detailed communication with information regarding your child's testing location will be sent as we get closer to the testing dates.

### **Information Related to Opt-Outs / Refusals**

**All Marple Newtown School District students are expected to participate in state-mandated testing.** We realize this year is unique for our families as they navigate the ever-changing pandemic and the impact it has had on education. Due to safety and social-emotional concerns, some families have inquired about opt-out/refusal options for Keystone Exams.

PDE recognizes a religious objection opt-out provision for Keystone Exams. This process requires parents/guardians to review the test materials before submitting a written objection. At this time, visitors are not permitted as part of our COVID-19 mitigation plan. Fortunately, PDE also allows a district to recognize parents have the right to refuse participation in the Keystone Exam administration. This is known as a parental refusal and does not require the review of the testing materials. Instead, it requires the parent/guardian to send written notification to the testing coordinator. Due to COVID-19, all opt-out requests will be handled by written notification to Mrs. Palladino, MNHS Assistant Principal.

All students who opt-out of the Keystone Exams will attend school asynchronously on the testing days. If you would like to exercise your right as a parent to opt-out of the assessments, please send me an email before April 30<sup>th</sup>, at [cpalladino@mnsd.org](mailto:cpalladino@mnsd.org).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Christa Palladino  
Assistant Principal

