

**BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

 610 FOUNTAIN AVENUE, BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP, NJ 08016-3314

MAIN OFFICE: 609-387-1713

HOPKINS OFFICE: 609- 387- 3774

PHIL BROWNRIDGE CHRISTOPHER ILCONICH NAOMI A. THREADGILL NEAL CANAVAN PETER E. TEIFER JAMES S. MILLS

 *Principal Vice Principal Vice Principal Vice Principal Co-Curricular Supervisor District Director of Guidance*

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year, New Jersey has transitioned to a new statewide assessment as part of a group of 14 states. The group of states, called the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), has been working for the last several years to develop tests that are aligned to new content standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics that were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education in 2010. The PARCC assessment takes the place of the HSPA, which had been the state test for the last several years.

The graduation requirement in the past stated that a student had to pass the HSPA to be eligible to graduate. Now, with the PARCC assessment replacing the HSPA, there are new graduation requirements. Students in the Class of 2015 will be the last class required to pass the HSPA. Students in the 2016, 2017, and 2018 classes must pass one of the following assessments in Reading and one in Math:

 SAT- 400 on Reading and Math

ACT- 16 on Reading and Math

ACT Aspire- 422 on the reading and math

ASVAB-AFQT 31 on the reading and math

Accuplacer- Write Placer 6

Accuplacer- Math 76

PARCC- score unknown at this time

PSAT- 40 on the Reading and Math

Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal in English Language Arts and Math

Students enrolled in Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Math 1, Math 2, Math 3, English 1, English 2, or English 3 during the second semester will be taking the PARCC test. In addition, juniors who are not taking any of those classes during the second semester, but have not passed any other testing requirements will also take the PARCC for the courses they completed during the first semester. The test consists of two sections; the first is called Performance Based and the second is called End of Year. The Performance Based section will be given from March 23rd to May 1st. The End of Year starts on May 8th and ends on June 5th. Students will take the exams during their usual Math or English class period in the computer labs with their Math or English teachers. The English portion of the test is a total of 5 days and the Math portion is a total of 4 days per student. Students are asked to bring their own headphones. There will be a couple extra pairs in the rooms for students who do not have them.

The Performance Based English test lasts for 3 days. The lengths of tests each day are 75 minutes, 90 minutes, and 60 minutes. The end of year English Test is two days with each test lasting for 60 minutes. The Performance Based Math test is scheduled for 2 days and takes 90 minutes and 75 minutes respectively. The End of year Math Test time on test lasts for 90 minutes and 75 minutes.

The testing schedule will be shared with everyone. Students may arrive late to the class immediately following their PARCC exam. On days when the Period 9-10 class is testing, the schedule will be flipped so that students will report to their Period 9-10 first and Period 1-2 at the end of the day. This flip becomes necessary to make sure students have transportation at the end of the day in case the test runs late. In addition, the library and computer labs will be closed during testing periods.

We will be offering a PARCC information session on February 4th from 6:00-7:00 in the PAC. I will be presenting all of this information, any new or additional information, and taking questions. I look forward to seeing many of you then. Also, if you cannot attend the meeting, the Power Point and the questions/answers from that evening will be posted on my website.