



MARS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

1775 THREE DEGREE ROAD
MARS, PA 16046
(724) 625-3145

TODD J. KOLSON, PRINCIPAL

April 27, 2018

Dear Parents / Guardians:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires school districts in Pennsylvania to administer the Algebra I Keystone Exam to all grade 8 students who are enrolled in Algebra I. Additionally, to meet state and federal graduation requirements, the Mars Area School District adopted graduation requirements for the class of 2020 and beyond.

Mars Area Middle School will use the following schedule to complete the Algebra I Keystone exam:

- Day 1 – Tuesday, May 15th – Module #1 – Algebra I Keystone Exam
 - Testing Periods 1, 2, 3 (8:03 AM – 10:09 AM)
 - Tuesday Period Order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- Day 2 – Wednesday, May 16th – Module #2 – Algebra I Keystone Exam
 - Testing Period 9, 8, 5 (8:03 AM – 10:09 AM)
 - Wednesday Period Order: 9, 8, 5, 4, 3, 6, 7, 1, 2

Please review the attached Graduation Requirements – Keystone Exams document that describes the Mars Area School District graduation requirements. Passing the Algebra I Keystone Exam with a score of Proficient or Advanced is a graduation requirement for the class of 2020 and beyond. All Keystone Exam test scores will be included on all students' educational transcripts. Please encourage your child to take these exams seriously.

The results of all Keystone Exams will be reported to you as a parent or guardian. In addition to individual student results, the district will receive subject area results that show how well our students are performing on these exams. School personnel will use the information to analyze our educational programs.

If you have any questions regarding the Keystone Exams, please visit the Standards Aligned System website at www.pdesas.org or contact the Mars Area Middle School at 724-625-3145.

We will begin testing promptly at the start times listed above. Please do not schedule any appointments on the mornings of the testing dates and make sure your child attends school on time. Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely,

Todd J. Kolson
Principal

Graduation Requirements – Keystone Exams

MASD School Board Adopted June 14, 2016

Last Revised March 14, 2017

Graduation Requirements for the class of 2020 and beyond:

ALL students must pass the Algebra I Keystone Exam, the English Literature Keystone Exam and the Biology Keystone Exam with a proficient or advanced score.

Accountability Standards for Graduation Requirements

Students currently enrolled in Keystone Exam-related district course(s):

- Students enrolled in Algebra I and/or English 9 and/or Biology must pass the corresponding Keystone Exam(s).
- Students who earn a passing district course grade in Algebra I and/or English 9 and/or Biology but fail the corresponding Keystone Exam in the spring testing window will be enrolled in a mandatory remediation course.
- This .5 elective credit, pass/fail remediation course will begin in the fall semester of the following school year. This remediation course will not be added into a student QPA.
- If students fail the re-test for the remediated Keystone Exam subject in the winter testing window, they will be re-enrolled in the same remediation course in the spring semester.
- If students fail the Algebra I Keystone Exam, the English Literature Keystone Exam, and the Biology Keystone Exam they will be simultaneously enrolled in three subject-specific remediation courses.
- Students will repeat the remediation course(s) until the corresponding Keystone Exam(s) is/are passed.
- Students who pass a Keystone Exam-related district course will be permitted to advance to the next level/sequential district course while enrolled in the remediation course related to the failed Keystone Exam.
- **If students qualify to participate in a Keystone Project Based Assessment (PBA), students will remain enrolled in the subject-specific remediation course(s) to complete the corresponding PBA until a score of Satisfactory is awarded. A statewide review panel will score student projects according to scoring protocols and rubrics developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.**

For more information about Keystone Exams or Project Based Assessments, please visit the following:

1. MAHS Course Selection Manual – Go to: www.marsk12.org; Schools; MAHS; For Students; Course Selection Manual; review pages 6-11
2. Standards Aligned System website at www.pdesas.org; select “Assessment” tab