



# MARS AREA HIGH SCHOOL

520 Route 228  
Mars PA 16046  
724-625-1581

Lindsay Rosswog, Principal  
Dale Sleva Jr., Asst. Principal

April 17, 2018

Dear Parents / Guardians:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires school districts in Pennsylvania to administer the Keystone Exams to all grade 9 - 11 students. Additionally, to meet state and federal graduation requirements, the Mars Area School District adopted graduation requirements for the class of 2020 and beyond.

All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the English Literature Keystone Exam and Biology Keystone Exam in the May testing window. All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who need to re-test in the Algebra I Keystone Exam will re-test on the schedule described below. If 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are currently enrolled in Algebra I, those students will test on the schedule described below.

All 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students who need to re-test on the Algebra I Keystone Exam, English Literature Keystone Exam and/or Biology Keystone Exam will re-test on the schedule described below.

Mars Area High School will use the following schedule to complete these exams:

- Day 1 – Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – Module #1 - English Literature Keystone Exam
- Day 2 – Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – Module #2 - English Literature Keystone Exam
- Day 3 – Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Module #1 - Biology Keystone Exam
- Day 4 – Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – Module #2 - Biology Keystone Exam
- Day 5 – Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Module #1 - Algebra I Keystone Exam
- Day 6 – Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Module #2 - Algebra I Keystone Exam

Please review the attached Graduation Requirements – Keystone Exams document that describes the Mars Area School District graduation requirements. Passing the Algebra I, English Literature and Biology Keystone Exams 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](http://www.pdesas.org) or contact the Mars Area High School at 724-625-1581.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Rosswog  
Principal

# Graduation Requirements – Keystone Exams MASD School Board

Posted: March 13, 2018

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](http://www.marsk12.org); Schools; MAHS; Guidance; Course Selection; Course Selection Manual; review pages 7-11
2. Standards Aligned System website at [www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org); select “Assessment” tab