

April, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Next week will begin our Spring Break vacation. School will be closed beginning Friday, April 2nd and reopen on Monday, April 12th. Shortly after we return from Spring Break, students in grades 9-11 will participate in school wide testing on Tuesday, April 27th and Wednesday, April, 28th. On both days, juniors will take the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE), which is the high-stakes State of Illinois high school exam. On Tuesday, freshman will take the PLAN college readiness test and sophomores will take the practice ACT. On Wednesday, freshman and sophomores will take the Work Keys job skills assessment.

All testing should be considered a serious opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and academic growth. Students' scores for this April will be compared to the All school Test Day performance from October 2009 to give an indication of growth and learning. Student performance on the PSAE will be used to indicate whether schools in our district have made gains in adequate yearly progress (AYP). Please make sure your student is well rested and has proper nutrition on each morning of testing.

I also want to invite you to join with our staff as we begin to prepare students for the ending of yet another school year. It is important that students remain focused as we move into the last six-week grading period. The highly important final exams will take place on May 26th and May 27th. It is imperative that students continue to focus on academics even as spring approaches. We want them to recognize how far they have come and to strive toward a strong finish for the 2009-2010 school year!

Best wishes for a great spring.

Creg E. Williams, Ed. D.

Superintendent