



Excellence, Preparation for Life, Opportunities for All

Offices of Curriculum and Instruction

Fall Testing Update

Our students have already begun to show what they know on a variety of fall testing opportunities. This past October all 10th and 11th grade students participated in the PSAT. “Why?” you may ask. Well, it’s simple...it’s what is best for kids. The PSAT allows us to know our students’ strengths and opportunities for growth relative to daily instruction, allows for data driven decision making for enrollment into Honors, Advanced Placement and Advanced Standing courses, allows ALL of our students the opportunity to practice college entrance exams, and gives our students the opportunity to qualify for National Merit Scholarships.

The Ohio State Tests for the 2016-2017 school year have begun within our third grade classrooms. Our third grade students took the first of two Ohio State Test opportunities in ELA on November 15th and 16th. This fall test allows our students the chance to obtain a 44 or higher within the reading sub score in order to be promoted to the 4th grade, while at the same times gives our staff the ability to see the area’s strength and improvement for all students. Students who do not obtain a 44 or higher will have another opportunity to reach this score when they take the ELA test in the spring of 2017. Even with the increase of the state cut score, we are confident our students and staff are ready to not only meet, but exceed the state’s expectation.

December 5th marks the start of our End of Course Exam window for students who are re-taking exams to increase their overall total score for graduation. Students have the opportunity to re-test in one or more of the seven mandatory exams: Algebra 1, Geometry, English I, English II, American History, American Government, and Biology. Our high school administration along with our high school counselors have been working diligently, looking at each individual student and evaluating what assessment would best benefit the student and his or her graduation needs. Our high school staff looks forward to working within each department area to determine the remediation needed for students to not only increase their score, but master the content set forth.

The Fairfield City School District Offices of Curriculum and Instruction

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Change Can Be Good

The Ohio Department of Education has begun the revision process of Ohio's Learning Standards for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Be assured that this is *revision* and not *rewriting*. While there may be a standard here and there that changes, most of the work was based on clarifying confusing standards. This is good news! After the ELA and Math revisions pass the Ohio Legislature this winter, Curriculum Department staff will carefully examine them and make plans for adjusting curriculum if needed. These adjustments will be done with the help of content area teachers. The major advice for now is to breathe; there are no changes that will affect Ohio's State Tests for this school year. See the timeline below to review the state's plan for the process.

2016-2017 Timeline for Standards Revision

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Revised standards presented to Ohio House and Senate Education Committee, State Board of Education: **Fall 2016**
- State Board expected to approve revised standards: **Winter 2017**
- Model curricula writing teams form and meet about updates: **Fall 2016 – Summer 2017**
- Educators transition to revised standards in math and English language arts: **2017–2018 School Year**

Science, Social Studies, and Financial Literacy

- Working group nominations accepted: **Fall 2016**
- Initial survey offers public opportunity to comment on standards: **Winter 2017**
- Advisory committees identify standards to revise. Working groups propose changes to the standards: **January – March 2017**

- Survey #2 offers public opportunity to comment about proposed revisions: **May – June 2017**
- Revised standards presented to Ohio House and Senate Education Committee, State Board of Education: **Fall 2017**
- State Board expected to approve revised standards: **Winter 2018**
- Educators transition to revised standards: **2018 – 2019 School Year**
- Standards reviews in other subject areas: **Beginning in 2018**

Transition to Outlook Update

Hopefully you are getting comfortable with the Outlook Mail Client and finding the new features helpful. Remember the move to Outlook for mail is just Phase 1 of the transition. As we move forward, Phase 2 will consist of creating Sharepoint sites for each building and populating those sites with calendars for use in 2017-2018. Phase 3 will be using those sites for important building files and information.

In the interim, you can continue to use FirstClass to sign up for things on building calendars and view files in conferences. We will be visiting each building in the next few weeks to answer tech questions. Watch for those dates in building newsletters.

Don't forget, you can set up Outlook on your computer desktop, which allows you to check your email without opening Chrome or Firefox. You can turn in a tech ticket if you have specific questions or concerns that need to be addressed.

Thanks for all you do!

