

March 9, 2012

Dear Parent:

On April 24 and 25, 2012, your junior student will be tested using an assessment developed by the Illinois State Board of Education. The test is named the *Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE)*, and it is designed to measure student progress towards meeting Illinois Learning Standards in reading, mathematics, and science. Students are required by the State of Illinois to participate in this assessment in order to be eligible to receive a high school diploma. **Additionally, the Illinois State Board of Education has instructed districts that students who do not participate in the required state testing during grade 11 may not be promoted to grade 12 until the testing requirement is fulfilled the following spring.** Additional information about the PSAE can be found on the District 211 website at www.d211.org.

The PSAE includes the American College Testing (ACT) college entrance examination, WorkKeys assessments in reading and mathematics, and a science test that specifically measure knowledge related to the State Standards. There is no charge for any of these tests.

The Illinois State Board of Education has directed that the PSAE tests be given in a specific order, with scheduled breaks. Below is the schedule of testing for juniors at Fremd High School:

PRIOR TO TEST DATE	Juniors Complete ACT Questionnaire	
Tuesday, April 24, 2012	Day 1 Testing	7:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
	Test Preparation and Directions	40 minutes total
	ACT English	45 minutes
	ACT Mathematics	60 minutes
	Break	15 minutes
	ACT Reading	35 minutes
	ACT Science	35 minutes
	TOTAL TIME	3 hours 50 minutes
Wednesday, April 25, 2012	Day 2 Testing	7:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
	Test Preparation and Directions	20 minutes total
	ISBE Science	40 minutes
	WorkKeys: <i>Applied Mathematics</i>	45 minutes
	Break	15 minutes
	WorkKeys: <i>Reading for Information</i>	45 minutes
	TOTAL TIME	2 hours 45 minutes
	Transition <i>Sophomores & Juniors break Freshmen & Seniors arrive at school</i>	10:15 a.m.
	Shortened Periods 1-8	10:25 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Please note that testing ends at 11:20 a.m. on April 24 and juniors will be dismissed from school at that time. Students who require test accommodations beyond 11:20 a.m. will have alternative transportation options. On April 25, testing ends at 10:15 a.m. and juniors will then attend an abbreviated 8 period schedule. Buses will be available for those who normally use bus service.

Results of the ACT portion of the test should be available in June and will include a composite score plus subscores for ACT reading, English, mathematics, and science tests. In early fall, your child will receive WorkKeys scores, as well as, PSAE scores for reading, mathematics, and science. PSAE scores will be a part of your child's official transcript.

The ACT portion of the PSAE is the same test used by many colleges and universities for entrance examination purposes. Juniors will have the option of sending ACT results to colleges of their choice as part of the application process. Students also may wish to take an additional ACT test on a national test date to improve their scores. Your child should discuss this option with his or her counselor to determine if it would be beneficial to receive information about the dates and costs of national ACT testings.

The PSAE measures knowledge that your child has gained over many years of schooling. However, there are some ways you can assist your son or daughter in preparing for the PSAE.

1. Your student will receive test preparation materials that can help with an independent review of common test concepts and formats. Encourage your junior to review this material over the next several weeks. Subject area teachers at the school will respond to any questions regarding this test.
2. Encourage your student to get plenty of sleep, especially the week of testing.
3. Encourage your son or daughter to eat a nutritious breakfast on the days of testing.
4. Your junior student should bring at least four number 2 pencils with good erasers and a calculator for use on certain parts of the PSAE. Information about the types of calculators allowed will be provided to your child at school prior to testing.

Please encourage your child to put forth his or her best effort on this test in order to demonstrate his/her true capabilities. Additional questions about the Prairie State Achievement Examination may be answered by visiting the PSAE website at www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm, or by contacting your student's counselor at Fremd High School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa A. Small". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Principal