

April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in specific content areas. The exams are one component of Pennsylvania's high school graduation requirements, and will help school districts guide students toward meeting state standards.

At Great Valley Middle School, students currently enrolled in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra & Geometry course will be taking the computer-based Algebra I Keystone Exam on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 10:45am. This exam will be given to students on their iPads. All students who are currently virtual are invited to come into school on the testing days to take this exam. The virtual students who decide to take this exam will be tested in a separate location. Once the exam has been completed, virtual students can arrange for transportation to return home and finish their school day virtually.

In order to create the optimal test taking situation for your son or daughter we ask that you:

- Ensure that your son/daughter is well rested before the assessment.
- Remind your son/daughter that the Keystone is not a timed test and, therefore, there is no reason to rush during testing; he/she should take time to thoughtfully answer and review all responses.
- Remind your son/ daughter to bring a PCR book to the assessment.
- Electronic devices including cell phones, are not permitted in the testing room, they must be left in book bags.
- If any keys are missing on the keyboard, please have your student submit an issue trak ([greatvalley@myissuetrak.com](mailto:greatvalley@myissuetrak.com)) to replace any broken or missing keys. Please ensure your student has all the updates installed prior to testing.
- Please be sure iPads are fully charged for this test!

Additionally, students have had the opportunity to practice in the online testing environment with their teachers.

On the left hand side of this letter is a copy of the *Information for Parents or Guardians* for the Keystone Exams including frequently asked questions about the assessment. PDE requires all public schools to administer the Keystone Exam to students who are enrolled in a Keystone related course, including Algebra 1. Students who arrive late or miss any section(s) of these tests will be required to make up all missed portions, which will likely result in missing regularly scheduled classes.

Again, please urge your child to take this assessment seriously. We look forward to a successful testing experience and we truly appreciate your support. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Marshall Hoffritz, Ed. D.  
Assistant Principal