

**HASBROUCK HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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**Important Information for all HHHS Students Grades 9-12 March 2-4, 2010**

February 12, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian,

All students in grades 9, 10 and 11 will take standardized tests the mornings of March 2, 3, and 4, 2010.

**GRADE 11:**

These students will take the state high school graduation test known as the Grade 11 High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA). By state law, students must pass this test as a graduation requirement. Therefore, your son or daughter will have to pass the HSPA in order to receive a high school diploma. The test will be administered over a three-day period. Test sections are of differing lengths, from 3 hours and 16 minutes for math to 2 hours and 35 minutes for language arts.

**The Mathematics Section**

The Mathematics section will be administered on Tuesday, March 2. This section requires students to solve problems of basic math, algebra and geometry. The math section contains three types of questions. Most are multiple-choice. Others require students to record their answers by filling numbers on a grid. Still others require students to explain their problem solution in a brief written paragraph, also called an open-ended response. Students will be expected to use calculators during the mathematics portion of the test.

**The Language Arts Literacy Sections**

On Wednesday and Thursday, March 3 and 4, students will take the Language Arts Literacy sections of the test. These sections assess reading and writing skills through a variety of questions and tasks. Students will be required to read passages and answer multiple-choice and open-ended questions about the readings. Students will also write one long essay and some shorter essays over the two days.

You will receive your child's scores in early June. Students must pass both the Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy sections to be eligible for graduation.

**NOTE:** The mere possession of cell phones is strictly forbidden during the HSPA administration. The Department of Education rule is as follows: any student found to have a cell phone in his or her possession while in a testing room will have his or her answer folder voided for that test section. Please join us in reinforcing this rule with your son or daughter.

The HSPA test is a measure of the knowledge and skills that young people need to succeed in higher education and in work. Passing this graduation test will help to assure that your son or daughter is better prepared to function in today's demanding workplace and to function as a productive citizen in today's world and the world of tomorrow.

Please be sure your child is well rested on these testing days, has breakfast, and arrives to school on time and ready to test by 7:55 a.m. He/she needs to bring two sharpened #2 pencils every day and a scientific calculator on Tuesday for the mathematics test. Graphing calculators may be used but are not necessary for this test. Students will be notified of their testing location and seat assignment.

**GRADES 9 and 10:**

These students will take *practice HSPA* tests on March 2, 3, and 4. Individual student results are the criteria for possible student placement in remedial classes next year. For this reason, students should make a sincere effort to perform well on these tests. All students should report to their assigned testing rooms (assignments will be posted in English classrooms) by 7:55 every testing day. Students should make a sincere effort to be punctual and to attend.

**GRADE 12:**

These students will follow a modified schedule on March 2, 3, and 4, 2010. All seniors (with a few exceptions: see below) will begin with period 1 PE class as follows:

**ARRIVAL TIME:** 10:25 A.M.

**ARRIVAL LOCATION:** Enter the building through the Cafeteria entrance on Paterson Ave.

**ARRIVAL PROCEDURES:** Go directly to the NEW GYM.

- Students may NOT go to their lockers until the end of the testing (before period 5.)

Attendance at 10:30 physical education is mandatory on these days. Absences will be considered a cut unless the student is ill for the school day and a parent has notified the school of the illness.

***EXCEPTIONS:***

Seniors who must take the New Jersey HSPA will be notified and told of their testing location. Seniors who are enrolled in AP Statistics and/or AP Calculus report to room 325 at 10:25

- AP Statistics March 2 AND 4
- AP Calculus March 3

If inclement weather forces a delayed opening, testing will NOT be held, and students will follow a normal delayed opening schedule. If we miss a testing day due to a delayed opening or a snow day, the postponed testing will take place on the first full day of school following Thursday, March 4th.

Thank you,

Mrs. Brinker