

METUCHEN HIGH SCHOOL

February 2010



TO: All Parents/Guardians

**From: Bruce J. Peragallo
The Office of the Acting Principal**

Grade 11 High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) – March 2, 3, and 4

All parents/guardians of students in Grade 11 are reminded that the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) will be administered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 2, 3, and 4. The HSPA is a three-part test that measures language arts literacy (reading and writing) and mathematical proficiencies. Please be aware that passing all sections of the HSPA is part of the state-mandated graduation requirements for all students.

As parents/guardians, you can help during the week of the testing by making certain that your child rests properly each night, is not distracted at home, and arrives for school by **8:00 a.m.** each day (he/she must be in the testing room by 8:10 a.m.). For optimum test-taking conditions, the HSPA will be administered in special homerooms each morning and promptly start at 8:20 a.m. and conclude around 11:00 a.m., depending on the testing day. If you have any questions, please contact your child's counselor or the Test Coordinator (Traci Grauer).

Please note that state testing regulations prohibit cell phones in testing sites. Therefore, all student cell phones will be collected by proctors upon entering the test rooms and will be returned upon exiting the rooms at the conclusion of the test. Failure to comply will result in a student's test being voided.

A parent information pamphlet entitled "Your Guide to the HSPA" has been mailed to all junior parents/guardians under a separate cover. If you have not received one, contact the Guidance Office at (732) 321-8750. In addition, a "Student Preparation Booklet" has been distributed to all juniors in English classes and will be discussed by your child's English and mathematics teachers prior to the testing.

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Scheduling for 2010-11

The Guidance Department will begin meeting with students for course selections for the 2010-11 school year during the months of February and March. A notice concerning your child's scheduling appointment and a *Program of Studies Booklet* will be mailed to you under separate cover in the near future. Remember, course selection decisions are extremely important and should be made as a joint effort between students, parents, and school personnel. If you have any questions concerning procedures and/or specific courses, please call the Guidance Department at (732) 321-8750.

Winter Season Athletic Awards Program – Thursday, March 11

The Athletic Department and its Director John Cathcart will sponsor the annual awards night for all winter sports on Thursday evening, March 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. All parents/guardians are invited to attend. Athletic awards and letters will be presented to those students who participated in basketball, cheerleading, swimming, winter track, and wrestling.

World Languages Honor Societies Induction Ceremony – Monday, March 8

The Chapters Platero, Victor Hugo, and Delta Epsilon Phi of Metuchen High School will sponsor its Induction Ceremony of the Spanish, French, and German Honor Societies on Monday evening, March 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. All parents and guardians, especially of student inductees, are invited to attend.

World Languages Department Invitation to MHS Community – Friday, March 12

As part of a week-long recognition of World Languages, the MHS foreign language teachers would like to invite members of the community who are native speakers or proficient in another language to "dialogue" with our students during the three lunch periods (11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) on Friday, March 12. The "dialogues" will include small stations set up in the cafeteria for conversational speaking. This is an exciting way to participate with the World Languages Department and assist in fostering unique opportunities for students. French, German, and Spanish are offered at MHS, but the school community represents numerous other foreign languages as well.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Mary Lou Roma (Supervisor of World Languages) at mlroma@metboe.k12.nj.us.

Virtual High School

In addition to taking courses at Metuchen High School, juniors and seniors have the opportunity to take courses online through Virtual High School. Online courses provide a different learning environment and can offer exposure to the kind of internet platform used in many college classes. The courses offered range from electives to AP courses, some only a semester long, some full-year. Students interested in taking an online course should speak to their guidance counselor when they meet for scheduling. To see Virtual High School's course offerings, visit their website at www.govhs.org.

Reminder #1 – the next PTO meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1. It will take place in the MHS Library and start at 7:30 p.m. Judi Cheung, Metuchen High School Substance Abuse Coordinator, will be the guest speaker.

Reminder # 2 –Spring Musical (Footloose) – Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 18, 19 and 20