November 9, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Starting the week of December 6, 2021, W.C.H.S. students will be participating in the Winter Keystone Exams. The Keystone Exams will be given on the following dates: December 6th (Literature), December 7th (Algebra), and December 8th and 9th (Biology). More information regarding the Keystone Exams can be located at the following link: http://www.pdesas.org/Assessment, or visit our website at https://www.cgisd.org/Page/84.

The Keystone Exams are based on the Keystone Anchors and Eligible Content. The assessments are designed to assist school districts in determining the quality of their educational programs. Parents can reassure children that these assessments give them an opportunity to demonstrate their learning and help teachers plan the best possible instruction. These assessments will also determine school achievement for the school and district. Please know participation in the Keystone Exams is a requirement for graduation pathways according to PA Act 158. (https://www.education.pa.gov/k-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/GraduationRequirements/Act158/Pages/default.aspx)

Per the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), there are rules and policies regarding electronic devices (cell phones, smart phones, and other prohibited devices) during the administration of the Keystone Exams. In addition, please read the letter from PDE to parents, and share this important information below with your child:

We encourage students, if applicable, to leave cell phones and electronic devices at home on the days of testing. This includes any electronic reading device.

Students are not permitted to have cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, fitness trackers, cameras, and other prohibited electronic devices during the administration of the assessment. These items will be collected as students enter the testing site (classroom), should they bring them to school. These items will be returned to the student, once all testing is complete for that day.

We thank parents and guardians for supporting the assessments. Here are some ways you can assist:

-Be sure your child receives a good night’s sleep (at least 8 hours).
-Start the day with plenty of time and avoid a morning rush to school.
-Be sure your child has a good breakfast.
-Encourage your child to dress comfortably.
-Please avoid unnecessary absences.
-Do not schedule any medical or other appointments during the test times.
-Encourage your child to do his/her best work!

Please feel free to contact your child’s principal or guidance counselor should you have any questions.

Thank you for your support,

[Signature]

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