

End of Course Exams

All students at Central High School will be required to take an End of Course Exam in all classes at the end of the school year. Missouri Assessment Program or MAP tests will no longer be given at the high school level. For the 2008-2009 school year, the state of Missouri will administer an End of Course exam in Algebra I, Communication Arts II, and Biology. For Central, this means students who are enrolled in Algebra I and Algebra IB, all English II classes, and Advanced Biology or Biology class. These three End of Course exams will be used to determine whether a school meets Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by No Child Left Behind statutes and as part of our Annual Progress Report (APR) conducted for state accountability. Central High School will develop End of Course Exams in all other classes. The state of Missouri will administer end of course exams in most of the other core level classes beginning in the 2009-2010 school year.

Our teachers have been preparing students for success by revising curriculum to meet the new Content Level Standards for each class as developed by the state. The End of Course exams will count for twenty percent of a student's final grade in every class. A student who fails an End of Course exam may not receive credit for that class and may be required to retake the class in summer school or during the next school year. You can feel comfortable in the fact that our students will be prepared to meet the challenges of the new assessment program.

The End of Course exams in Algebra, Biology and English II will be administered in two testing sessions: one is selective response (multiple choice), the second is a performance event (major essay). Accommodations for special needs students will remain the same as for the MAP tests. A MAP-A test will be continued for the 1-2% of the district population that meets the criteria for MAP-A testing. Therefore, there will be no change to MAP-A testing.

I hope this summary will give you an idea on what testing will look like now and in the future at Central High School. Remember, we will move forward and begin working on the process to provide our students with the knowledge and skills to be successful on these tests and any future testing required under No Child Left Behind and the state of Missouri. Our district has been recognized for Distinction in Performance for the past 6 years. We will continue to strive to meet the highest standards in the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Brad Coleman
Principal