

October 9, 2006

Dear Freshman Parents:

Freshmen who entered the ninth grade for the first time during the 2006-2007 school year on the Career Preparation, College Technical Preparation, or College University Preparation Course of Study have to score at least a Level III on the North Carolina End-of-Course (EOC) tests in Algebra I, Biology, English I, Civics & Economics, and U.S. History to graduate from high school. Students who do not make a Level III on these tests will be provided two retest opportunities to satisfy this part of the new high school exit standards.

Another new graduation requirement for freshmen who entered ninth grade for the first time during the current school year is the completion of a performance-based project, referred to as "The Graduation Project." Service-based or work-based learning experiences often are associated with this type of project. Students will learn and practice the essential project skills during their freshman, sophomore, and junior years. However, the bulk of the project's emphasis will appear during your child's junior and senior years. In fact, our staff is currently involved in staff development to prepare all teachers on our campus for their roles in your child's project. Attached is a document containing overview information for you to review with your child about "The Graduation Project."

Please know that our staff has been busy behind the scenes to insure student success with regard to these new requirements. In fact, our staff is currently developing an exam schedule that will work for each semester in terms of the regular administration of exams as well as the retest opportunities needed for any ninth graders under these graduation standards who fail to make a Level III on the required End-of-Course (EOC) tests. Furthermore, during this past summer, a "Graduation Project Committee" was established and has worked to lead the development of a school-wide plan focused on student success with regard to the completion of the project. Members of this committee are: Craig Ross (Spanish teacher), Meg Hardison (Media Specialist), Yvonne Anderson (English teacher), Monica Wilkerson (English teacher), and Peggy Credle (Assistant Principal). More information will be forthcoming during the upcoming months and school years with regard to these issues; nonetheless, I wanted to make sure all parents of the affected students are aware of these new graduation requirements.

Respectfully,

Stephen Gainey
Principal