



Mark Webster
Principal

February 22, 2012

Dear Parent,

On **Wednesday, March 7, 2012**, the TAKS English Language Arts (ELA) Test will be administered to all 10th and 11th graders at AHS. Last year's TAKS results earned Amarillo High School three **Gold Performance Acknowledgement** awards for scores and a rating of **Academically Acceptable**. Our current state campus rating will not be impacted this year due to the transition in the state to the STAAR test. However, our NCLB rating of **Met Annual Yearly Progress** will be determined based on this year's TAKS results. It is also important to remember that passing all parts of the Exit Level TAKS test is still a graduation requirement for all students currently enrolled in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Sandies Can! Sophomores and Juniors can earn exemption from semester exams in courses in which they: pass all portions of the TAKS test, have at least an 85 average for the 2nd semester, have a 90% attendance rate, and have no unexcused absences.

Our first year 9th grade students will take the **STAAR, End of Course** exams beginning this year. To help prepare them for this new testing regimen, they will be taking an **End of Course ELA simulation** on Wednesday, March 7 in preparation for the actual testing on March 26 & 27. The freshmen will be dismissed between 11:45 and 12:00 at Entrance # 7 on the Fulton Street Parking Lot. Freshmen parents should pick them up on that lot.

Please mark Wednesday, March 7 on your calendar! Please make travel arrangements for your student, especially if he/she is a freshman. Buses will run at 12:30 and the regular afternoon times. Because TAKS attendance is mandatory, please do not schedule appointments on this day. Please note the schedule of release times on the back of this letter. Students will not be allowed to leave testing rooms early. Also, read a copy of the honor statement (see reverse side) that your student must sign on test day, as part of TEA's enhanced security policy.

Sandies Can! TAKS testing students can work until 3:35 if they need it to complete the test. They can bring bottled water, non-greasy snacks, and lunch if they have special dietary needs. Students perform better if they eat a protein-rich breakfast, get a good night's sleep, and use test-taking strategies. Pizza and a bottle of water will be provided for sophomore, junior, and senior TAKS testing students. The cafeteria will be open for freshmen who wish to purchase lunch.

Cell Phones/iPods/Other Electronic Equipment: NO EXCEPTIONS/NO EXCUSES. As required by TEA, students are required to turn off and place electronic equipment at the front of the classroom. For students who fail to comply, devices will be collected, tests may not be valid, and the student will spend 5 days in ISS. **Please DO NOT CALL OR TEXT your student during testing.** Please relay all important information through the Main Office at 326-2002.

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Freshmen	Sophomores/Juniors	Seniors
<p>Testing: 8:15-11:45*</p> <p>*EOC Simulation for all First Year 9th Grade Students.</p> <p>9th grade students will be released at entrance #7. Students will not be allowed to go to lockers or to other parts of the building after testing.</p> <p>Released for remainder of day. Please have rides arranged.</p> <p>Students will not be allowed to stay on campus. Students may purchase a sack lunch in the cafeteria before leaving campus</p> <p>No AACAL</p>	<p>Testing: 8:15—2:30*</p> <p>*We cannot release students until we have accounted for all testing materials to ensure test security.</p> <p>Pizza and water provided at approximately 12:15</p> <p>Sophomores who are absent are required by state law to make-up the test at a later date.</p> <p>No AACAL</p>	<p>No school</p> <p>No AACAL</p>

If you have any questions, please call your child's assistant principal at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Mark Webster

Honor Statements:

Students in grades 10 and Exit level examinees will be asked to sign an honor statement immediately prior to taking Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) assessments. The following language will appear on the examinee's answer document:

"By signing my name, I agree that I will not give or receive unauthorized assistance during the tests. I understand that giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during the test is cheating and may result in the invalidation of my test results."

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Upcoming Schedule of Important Dates:

- *March 2nd: Amarillo High is hosting the State Speech and Debate Tournament. Classes at AHS will be released at 12:30

- March 7th: ELA TAKS 10th and 11th grade
9th STAAR Simulation

- *March 26th: 9th Grade STAAR EOC Writing
11th Grade STAAR EOC Writing Field Test

- *March 27th: 9th Grade STAAR EOC Reading
11th Grade STAAR EOC Reading Field Test

- *April 24th: 10th Grade Math TAKS
9th Grade EOC Academy
0 hour - 3rd period class in afternoon

- *April 25th: 11th Grade Math TAKS
9th Grade EOC Academy
4th - 7th period class in afternoon

- *April 26th: 10th and 11th Science TAKS
0 hour - 3rd period class in afternoon

- *April 27th: 10th and 11th Social Studies TAKS
4th - 7th period class in afternoon

- May 8th: 9th Grade STAAR EOC Biology

- May 10th: 9th Grade STAAR EOC World Geography

- May 11th: 9th Grade STAAR EOC Chemistry

- May 14th: 9th Grade STAAR EOC Algebra II

- May 15th: 9th Grade STAAR EOC Algebra I

- May 16th: 9th Grade STAAR EOC Geometry

*See AHS website for time specific schedule at <http://ahsamaisd.sharpschool.com>

Amarillo Independent School District