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Dear Parent or Guardian:

From April 26th to May 3rd students in grade 11 will take the state assessment in (a) English Language Arts, (b) Mathematics, and (c) Science. See the attached schedule for further details and starting dates for each assessment and how the senior privileges are set up. The purpose of this letter is to help in your understanding of the assessment, as well as provide a few ideas for improving your child's preparedness.

The assessments measure student achievement in relation to our state standards in the areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. In addition, score reports will provide information on student performance in the following areas:

- English: reading, writing, listening, & research
- Math: concepts and procedures; problem solving and modeling/data analysis; & communicating reasoning
- Science: physical science, life science, and earth & space science

The assessments are given through an online computer application and are unique in the way they adapt to a student's question responses. This is important as it provides questions that are appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude towards testing. These assessments are not timed; however, we provide the following times as estimates of assessment duration: (a) English – 4 hours, (b) Math – 3.5 hours, (c) Science – 1 hour.

Please remind your student to bring their headphones and computer with a full charge and the power cord, as we have no extra power cords for these particular computers.

Student grades will not be impacted by their performance on this assessment however the assessment does serve as a way for the school to analyze how well we are helping students meet the standards.

There is no need for students to study in preparation for the assessments. We do, however, ask that students try their best and get plenty of rest the night before testing. It is important for students to come to school on test days. Assessments are required, therefore making up a missed assessment leads to less instructional time and a loss of important learning opportunities.

This testing is very important for your child, and the Northwestern Area School District. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during this assessment period. Please contact us if you have any questions. We know that Northwestern's students will help us to understand the great strides our students have taken in meeting our school and state standards in learning!

Sincerely,

6-12 School Principal

Christopher Ulrich

South Dakota State Assessments

High School

April 26, 2023: 9:00-11:40 Math Non-Performance. ELA Non-Performance 12:30-3:10

April 27, 2023: 9:30-11:40 Math Performance. ELA Performance 12:30-3:10

May 3, 2023: 9:10-11:40 Science

Make up days April 28th, May 5th, 8th, and 9th.

Senior Privileges

- All seniors start with privileges at the start of the 4th quarter.
- Bonus days are gained based on Attendance %, Science, Math, English
- There are approximately 124 days the first three quarters, divided by 4 leaves 31 days
- Advanced or level 4 on one of the tests gets 31 days
- Proficient or level 3 gets 15
- Attendance above 97.5% gets 31 days
- Attendance between 95 & 97.5% 15 extra days