



SANDRA "SAM" HIMMEL – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

*"Where Learning is the Expectation  
And Caring is a Commitment"*

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LINDA B. POWERS  
DISTRICT 5

December 8, 2011

Dear Parents of Students entering High School in 2011-12:

During the 2010 legislative session, the Florida Legislature approved new high school graduation requirements. The new requirements will be phased in over the next 7 years beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. They cover primarily science and mathematics courses. Although the total number of math and science courses needed to graduate with a standard diploma will remain the same (4 credits in math and 3 credits in science), the specific courses required within each category have been revised.

The new graduation requirements will take effect based on the year that students enter 9th grade. The new requirements for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2011- 2012 are outlined below.

- ❖ Grade 10 FCAT Reading: Level 3 score required
- ❖ Pass Algebra 1 and take the statewide standardized end-of-course (EOC)\* test that must be passed in order to earn credit in the course \*\*
- ❖ Pass Geometry and take a statewide standardized end-of-course (EOC)\* test that will be worth 30% of the student's course grade
- ❖ Pass Biology and take a statewide standardized end-of-course (EOC)\* test that will be worth 30% of the student's course grade
- ❖ Pass one course of the required graduation requirements via online learning.

\*According to the Florida Department of Education, end-of-course (EOC) assessments will be very different from the FCAT. Students will participate in these assessments on the computer at the conclusion of the specific high school courses. The initial year of the EOC exam administration will only occur in the spring. EOC requirements may be waived for some exceptional student education (ESE) students but they will need to take the exam.

Students completing Algebra I and Algebra IB during either 1<sup>st</sup> term will take the EOC during the December 2011 testing window (Dec 5 to 16) or if the course is completed during second term the EOC exam will be taken during the spring testing window (April 30 to May 18). Results will be reported to the district and if the student scores a level 3 or higher, credit for the course will be awarded. Due to this requirement, report cards listing Algebra I and Algebra IB will not be complete in the area of credit awarded until the end of the school year when scores of the EOC are returned. The comment code listed on your student's report card, "+ No Final Grade - waiting on EOC Exam Results" will reflect this requirement.

Sincerely,