January 26, 2015

Sophomore Parents/Guardians & Students,

The purpose of this letter is to clarify all graduation and testing requirements for the graduating Class of 2017 as well as to ensure you are aware of changes regarding the requirement of the Culminating Project that have gone into effect this year. If you have any specific questions regarding your student’s status of meeting any of these requirements, please contact your student’s Counselor or Career and Information Specialist as noted below:

Last Name A-G: Sam Kresge (skresge@whiteriver.wednet.edu or 360-829-5556)
Last Name H-M: Greg Benjamin (gbenjamin@whiteriver.wednet.edu or 360-829-5511)
Last Name N-Z: Linda Keith (lkeith@whiteriver.wednet.edu or 360-829-5658)

**SBAC Testing Information:**
As you may be aware, there has been a shift with the state assessments beginning this year with the adoption of the Common Core State Standards. In the past, our federal accountability for improvement was measured by student progress on the Reading HSPE and Math EOC exams. Beginning this year, all public high schools in the state will now be testing juniors for accountability purposes. What this means for your student is that during the 15-16 school year, he/she will be taking both the 11th Grade English Language Arts and Math Smarter Balanced Exams. Additionally, your student will be taking the 10th Grade ELA Exit Exam this May.

This is a great opportunity for our students at White River High School to demonstrate their high levels of performance in ELA and Math. Additionally, one of the benefits of this exam for your student is that students who meet the College and Career Ready standard for this assessment will not need to take entrance exams for community college or technical schools as this will replace that requirement.

Students will be taking practice assessments in their English, Social Studies, and Math classes to assist with preparation for these exams. Additionally, our teachers have been providing relevant practice opportunities in class throughout this year that are tied to the standards measured by this exam and will continue to do so next year.
**Required Credits:**
All students in the Class of 2017 must meet the minimum credit requirement of 22.0 credits and meet specific core credit requirements in English (4.0), Math (3.0), Social Studies (3.0), Science (2.0), Occupational Education (1.0), Fine Art (1.0), Health (0.5), and PE (1.5). The remaining credits are from elective courses.

**Required State Assessments:**
Students must also pass the following three state assessments to earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement or CAA:

- □ ELA Requirement: 10th Grade ELA Exit Exam (May 19 & 20) OR 11th Grade ELA SBAC Exam
- □ Math Requirement: Algebra or Geometry EOC OR Algebra or Geometry Exit Exam (May 26-29) OR 11th Grade Math SBAC Exam
- □ Science Requirement: Biology EOC (June 1-4)

Please note that students who have taken one of these exams and not passed may also be eligible to submit a Collection of Evidence or COE as an alternate way to meet the requirement and still earn their CAA. For students who have an IEP and receive services, they are eligible to take the DAPE or Off Grade Level Assessment to meet the requirement and earn their Certificate of Individual Achievement or CIA.

**Other Requirements:**
The Culminating Project is no longer a graduation requirement for the Class of 2017. However, students still need to have completed the requirements for Washington State History (most students completed this in middle school) as well as their 5 Year Plan to be eligible for a diploma.

We know that some of these testing requirements as well as graduation requirements can be confusing. Please don’t hesitate to contact our counseling office or myself if you have any questions regarding any of the information in this letter at 360-829-5500.

Thank you,

Lainey Mathews
WRHS, Principal