WELCOME!!!

Ladies and gentlemen...

Get ready...

Let’s talk about...
MCAS TESTING
Advisory Day – February 29, 2011

MCAS...
WHAT LIES AHEAD

• Schedule of tests
• Why this is really important
• What’s passing…and what’s really passing
• What opportunities are available to you
• Tips for Success on the ELA test
• OUR CHALLENGE TO YOU!!!
MCAS: THE SCHEDULE

ELA (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS)
March 20: Composition Parts A & B
March 21: Reading Comprehension: Sessions 1 & 2
March 22: Reading Comprehension: Session 3

MATHEMATICS
May 15: Session 1
May 16: Session 2

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
June 5: Session 1
June 6: Session 2
WHY is this *really* important?!?

1) Meets a graduation requirement
2) Makes you potentially eligible for scholarship money depending on college selections
3) Gives you practice in standardized-testing situations
What’s passing…
…and what’s *really* passing.

Here’s the scoring breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warning (failing)</td>
<td>&lt;220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs Improvement</td>
<td>220 – 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proficient</td>
<td>240-260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>260-280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To meet minimum graduation requirements, students must earn score above 220… **BUT**!
What’s *really* passing! You Need to know!

- The Commonwealth wants all students to be moving towards proficiency
- Students who score Needs Improvement category (220-240) will require an Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP)
  - A plan which documents our collective efforts to move you towards proficiency
  - Will require you to take coursework in that subject area through graduation AND pass final exam
  - Has “test-out” opportunities
  - Will not require you to re-take the entire MCAS
Opportunities ($$$) from MCAS

Applies to all in-state colleges and universities
  • Tuition waiver all four years – potentially
  • May have extra requirements, like minimum GPA
  • Doesn’t apply to books, fees, etc.
KOPLIK Certificate of Mastery (~300 current seniors)
ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP (~200 current seniors)
TIPS for SUCCESS on ELA
(Thank you Mrs. Kumar)

For the Long Composition: (always neat handwriting J)
• Refresh your memory on at least three full-length texts that you can use for the essay.
• USE A DICTIONARY if you need one!!!
• Read & Understand all parts of the question carefully.
• Write a rough draft carefully.
• Underline the title of the text you are writing about.
• Periodically remind the reader of the writing prompt - refer back to the question.
• At least five solid paragraphs with a clear introduction and conclusion.
• Paragraphs open with a clear topic sentence - what that paragraph will be about.
• Provide supporting details and use them to analyze and argue your point.
• Use literary terms wherever appropriate.
• Write a neat and logical conclusion.
TIPS for SUCCESS on ELA, Con’t.

For the Multiple Choice questions: (check your answers!)
• Don’t answer the question before you read all four options.
• When specific lines are referenced in the question, go back and re-read the lines.

For the Open Response questions: (read all parts carefully!)
• Read the italicized introduction that is given prior to the selected passage.
• In your answer, refer to the title and author if those details are given.
• Write one-to-two paragraphs.
• Use relevant and appropriate evidence from the excerpt (passage / play / poem) through direct quotations and paraphrasing.
• Analyze these details from the excerpt.
• When asked to provide another appropriate title for the excerpt, remember that you are being asked to state the theme in a succinct manner.
Our Challenge To You!!!

- Always strive to do your best! – You can do it!!!
  - Class of 2011
  - Their stats: ELA (97% over NI)
    - 68% scored advanced
    - 29% scored proficient
  - Their stats: Math (97% over NI)
    - 81% scored advanced
    - 16% scored proficient

If each you does your best and takes this as seriously as possible…your class has the skills to be the best class ever!
Other Little Things…

• You ARE prepared…
  • WA does well…YOU WORK HARD!!!
• Get a good night’s sleep before each day
• Eat a good breakfast each morning
• Do NOT stress out
• Follow the tips…
  • ask questions/seek help if you have them

Good luck!
We believe in you!
You can do it!
QUESTIONS???