January 18, 2016

Dear Marple Newtown Parents and Staff,

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires that all high school students must pass the Keystone Exams in Algebra I, Literature, and Biology in order to graduate. If a passing score is not achieved after two attempts of taking each exam, a project-based assessment (PBA) is required in order to graduate.

I am writing to you today to request your help and participation in convincing our Pennsylvania legislators to delay the Keystone Exam (by supporting Senate Bill 880 sponsored by Senator Lloyd Smucker) as a graduation requirement until a better system can be determined. Like many educators across the state, I feel this is in the best interests of our students. There are several reasons why I feel this way:

- One individual test should not dictate whether a student should receive his or her diploma
- The method in which these tests are constructed and given is a huge impediment to our student’s education
- The time and money that is spent on Keystone Exam preparation is doing our students a major disservice when it comes to the other areas of learning

Please take the time to call, email, or tweet the following senators and ask them to vote for SB 880, which will delay Keystones as a graduation requirement.

Senator Thomas McGarrigle - (610) 853-4100 - tmcgarrigle@pasen.gov
Twitter: @McGarrigle26

Senator Anthony Williams - (215) 492-2980 - ahwilliams@pasenate.com
Twitter: @SenTonyWilliams

The Senate is returning to session on January 19 and they may consider voting on SB 880. I apologize for the short notice. I was in Harrisburg last week and found out the vote could take place this week.

Our legislators need to hear from you.
Thank you for your support and efforts in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Cary
Superintendent

Carol A. Cary, Ed.D., Superintendent
40 Media Line Road • Newtown Square, Pennsylvania 19073 • 610-359-4256 • Fax 610-723-3340 • www.mnsd.org