

HINSDALE MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/ Guardian:

As many of you are aware, we have initiated a new assessment practice that we have called the, "NECAP Weekly Quiz." This change has been specific to our math and science classes as we are already doing this type of assessment in our language arts and social studies classes. This approach represents a different assessment approach for our students as it requires each student to synthesize, process and apply the information they have learned, sometimes in areas outside of their course work. These quizzes have had, in some cases, a negative impact upon student grades.

In response to parental concerns, the administration has met with all science and math teachers to determine the value of this approach and to attempt to develop a strategy to minimize the negative impact of this approach. As a group, we recognize the importance of continuing to assess our students in this manner. We also recognize parental concerns around the achievement of their student(s). We have, therefore, decided to approach the problem in this manner:

- Teachers will drop a student's lowest grade of the quarter on these assessments.
- Since we quiz weekly, the remaining quiz grades will be batched into two groups and averaged; in classes where the weighting approach is different, the focus will be to minimize the possible negative impact of these assessments in an equitable fashion.
- The resulting two (2) quiz grades representing the four week average will be included in a student's quarterly grade. This will minimize the impact of this new form of assessment upon each student's academic average.
- Only topics specific to the course in which the student is enrolled will be covered in these weekly assessments. These assessments will include recently covered material and material covered previously within the same course.
- Special needs students will have accommodations that reflect the student's IEP.

Hopefully, this will address the issues raised by our parents and students; if not, we will hold a general parent meeting to address those concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

John F. Sullivan

Principal

