

Dear Parents and Families,

In order to encourage social and emotional wellness for students, families, and staff, we have canceled our Mid-Year Exam Week. The PSAT test and Regents Exams – all originally scheduled for the week of January 25 – are also canceled.

The cancellation of Mid-Year Exam Week means that instruction will continue through Friday, January 29. Some teachers may still elect to administer midterm/final exams during their regular class time. Midterm/final exams and projects will be part of the second quarter grades. Midterm exams will not be weighted as part of the final grade formula.

Due to the sharp rise in COVID-19 cases since the holidays, the PSAT exam that was scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, is also canceled. While we had originally intended to offer the exam at the High School, spacing students out by a distance of at least six feet, this proved infeasible given the numerous rooms, proctors, and staff members that would have been required to safely administer the test. Unfortunately, this was the last opportunity for Grade 11 students to take the preliminary exam. However, students are still able to practice taking the SATs online at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>. Grade 10 students will have another opportunity to take the PSAT exam in the fall. Parents and families who registered and paid through Total Registration will receive a refund from them. Additional details for obtaining refunds will be provided by the Student Support Services office next week.

Since the January Regents exams have been canceled, the New York State Department of Education will grant an exemption to eligible students who were scheduled to take the tests in order to meet the assessment requirements for any diploma type (local, Regents, or Regents diploma with advanced designation). For further details on qualifying for an exemption, you can visit <http://bit.ly/2LOctbx>.

Please contact our Student Support Services Coordinator, Alexandra MacKinnon, at amackinnon@newpaltz.k12.ny.us or call Student Support Services at 845-256-4120 with any questions regarding the PSAT exam. If you have any questions regarding the cancellation of Regents exams or Mid-Year Exam Week, please contact me at 845-256-4101. If you have a question about your student's specific midterm exam, please reach out to the class teacher directly.

Thank you for your support, feedback, ideas, and words of encouragement. Our school community will always be stronger for them.

Sincerely,

Mario Fernández, Ed.D.
New Paltz High School Principal