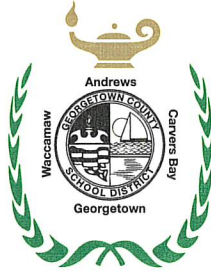


# Georgetown County School District

J.B. BECK ADMINISTRATION AND EDUCATION CENTER  
2018 CHURCH STREET • GEORGETOWN, S.C. 29440 • PHONE (843) 436-7000



May 13, 2019

Dear parent(s) and guardian(s):

As we begin our Spring season of standardized testing at the high school level, I would like to share a few tips along with a policy which will be in place during this testing season.

First of all, we understand that high stakes testing can be a stressful time for everyone. While some anxiety can be helpful, it can turn detrimental very quickly. Be very positive with your student, especially on test day.

Secondly, research shows that a well-fed student performs better on all types of tests. Please make sure that your student is getting enough sleep and enough to eat before taking their test.

Additionally, in order to ensure compliance with all state mandated rules and procedures, while providing an environment that promotes integrity and fairness for every student, all electronic devices, including cell phones, smart watches, etc... must be turned in to the test administrator prior to the beginning of testing. Failure to comply with this state mandated procedure results in the student receiving a "0" on an exam that counts 20% of their final grade and disciplinary action for disruption of the testing environment. In order to protect our students, teachers, and staff from these issues and consequences, we will be utilizing metal detectors as needed to proactively address this issue going forward.

As a school district, we are committed to providing our students with the best possible testing environment to ensure their success and this step will help with this mission.

Finally, As Henry Ford famously said, "Whether you think you can or you can't-you're right." Our teachers and administrators believe in our students and look forward to echoing your belief that our students will meet their goals on state standardized tests. As you talk with your children, begin sharing this belief and start getting them thinking about what will happen when they meet their goal or are successful on their test. As a parent, you make a world of difference in the success of your child(ren). Thank-you for all that you do in support of your student's success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. David M. Hammel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dr. David M. Hammel  
Executive Director for Accountability, Assessment, & Research  
Georgetown County School District