Information on New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (SBA)

August 29, 2012

Dear Parents and Students:

In order to receive a high school diploma, Albuquerque Public Schools students in the Class of 2013 and beyond must earn 25 credits and pass the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment. The SBA will serve as the high school exit exam for the first time this year, replacing the New Mexico High School Competency Exam.

To pass the test, students need to score Nearing Proficient or higher in both math and reading and earn a combined score of 2,273 points. Seniors who didn’t earn a passing score last spring will retake the test on October 3rd and 4th. The fall retake exam is for seniors only. Juniors will have the opportunity to retake the test in the spring. Sophomores also will take the SBA in the spring.

Counselors will be providing seniors with a pass/fail notice letting them know if they need to retake the test. The notice will include the student’s combined score. Parents and students also will receive a more detailed report that shows how the student scored in each subject. Parent’s reports are being mailed home this week. Juniors will receive their test results in their history classes.

It is strongly recommended that seniors who need to retake the test take both the math and reading portions since the results are based on a composite score. A strong performance in one subject can help improve the overall average. Tutoring is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school in the library. Schools have been provided with sample tests that can be used for review. Those practice exams are posted on the APS website at www.aps.edu/news/schools/testing.

Students who do not pass all required sections of the test in October may opt to obtain a high school certificate of completion instead of a diploma. Once students earn a certificate of completion, they may return to their high school for up to five years to retake the test in an attempt to earn a diploma.

The state Public Education Department is developing other options for Seniors who do not pass the required test this fall. As soon as those options are available we will provide more information.

Other useful links:
For information on graduation requirements: www.aps.edu/news/schools/graduationrequirements.

For information on graduation dates, times and places (subject to change, check for updates): www.aps.edu/news/schools/graduations.

Sincerely,

Jo Sloan
Principal, Del Norte High School