

Good evening UHS Junior Parents,

On Tuesday, April 14, 2015, one day after we return from Spring Break, your Junior Students will begin their M-Step testing. The M-Step, as explained in the March and April Newsletters, is Michigan's replacement of the MEAP Assessment that was a part of the Junior Year MME schedule. This is the assessment by which the state of Michigan determines whether students are below, at or above standard on content expectations. The M-Step is a not only a new test, but is being delivered over a new platform. Test will be completely online, a big difference from the "paper and pencil" tests of the past. It allows for multiple-answers, student interaction with the documents (e.g. highlighting and underlining) and has all tools built into the process (including calculators and speech to text for some of the readings).

The test will be delivered in two cycles. The first cycle, Group A, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 14-15 will include our English Language Learners (EL students), our HOSA State Finalists (who will be out of the building on Thursday and Friday) and our regular education students A – Kin and our students attending HOSA States. These students will test in ELA and Social Studies on Tuesday April 14 and Mathematics and Science on Wednesday, April 15. The second cycle, Group B, will test on Thursday, April 16 and Friday April 17. Group B will include our Special Education students and our Regular Education students Kir - Z. These students will test on ELA and Social Studies on Thursday, April 16 and Math and Science on Friday, April 17.

***MST and CSI Students will test at the IRC during their time there. They will not test at Utica High School. UAIS students will test at Heritage.*** Students with excused absences on their assigned testing time will not shift to the other test, but will test on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> during 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> hours.

School will continue on its normal schedule for all students. On these testing days, school will start at the regular time, all students will go to class unless testing. Students who are testing will go to their designated testing room which will be posted in school. M-Step testing will occur during 1st through 4th hours, and all juniors testing will eat lunch after testing is completed and students are released.

Students should bring the following to the test:

- Pencils / Pens (for scratch paper)
- Headphones/ear buds (for text-to-speech sections of the test). Headphones can be provided if a student doesn't have their own.
- Bottle of water or snack for the break.

Students will not be permitted to bring the following into the testing room:

- Paper of any type (it will be provided)
- Cell phones
- Calculators

Here is a visual of the testing cycle. Students will receive a break between tests. The test is untimed.

	Tues. Apr. 14	Wed. Apr. 15	Thurs. Apr. 16	Fri. Apr. 17
1st – 4th Hours 7:30 – 11:30 am	StuGroupA, EL, HOSA ELA & Soc. Stud.	StuGroupA, EL, HOSA Math & Sci	StuGroupB, SE ELA & Soc. Stud.	StuGroupB, SE Math & Sci.
Lunch 11:30 – 12				
5th Hour	Reg. Classes	Reg. Classes	Reg. Classes	Reg. Classes
6th Hour	Reg. Classes	Reg. Classes	Reg. Classes	Reg. Classes

During the days your student is not testing, classes will occur as regularly scheduled. In fact, with the exception of some "quiet testing" signs, and an understanding with Junior teachers that homework will be non-existent during these four testing days, classes should be largely unaffected allowing preparation for AP Exams, certification tests, etc., to continue unhindered by the testing process.

We strongly encourage you and your student to visit the M-Step Testing preparation site set up by Utica Community Schools. It can be found on the Utica Learning Interchange all the way at the bottom by clicking M-Step Resources or by selecting this [link](#). This link will give your student access to practice questions and a host of other useful information (both for students and parents), and is worth visiting and spending some time on prior to the test.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me. We are confident that our juniors are well prepared for this assessment. However, as it is new, we know that preparation and familiarity will be key to student success. Please visit the link above with your student, have them look at the various ELA and Mathematics sample questions available, and encourage them take the test very seriously.

Best regards,

Tom Lietz  
Principal