September 3, 2013

Dear Seniors and Parents,

In order to receive a high school diploma, students in New Mexico public and charter schools must earn 25 credits and pass the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (SBA).

To pass the test, students need to earn a combined score of 2,273 in math and reading. They also need score at least 1,138 in science.

Seniors who didn’t earn those scores when they took the test last spring will have to retake the SBA the week of Sept. 23. School counselors will be providing seniors with pass/fail notices letting them know if they need to retake any portion of the test.

In addition, students must pass end-of-course exams in U.S. history and writing. The passing score for history is 26 and for writing is 15. Seniors who didn’t earn those scores will have to retake end-of-course exams the week of Sept. 30.

Also, students who didn’t pass the science portion of the SBA will be required to take end-of-course exams in chemistry or biology the week of Sept. 30.

Graduation requirements, including passing scores on the exit exams, may vary for students with an Individualized Education Plan. Contact your student’s school counselor for more information.

Support will be available at each school for students who want help reviewing for the exams. Practice exams are posted on the APS website at www.aps.edu/news/schools/testing.

Fall retakes are for seniors only. Juniors will have an opportunity to retake the SBA in the spring. Sophomores also will take the SBA in the spring.

The state Public Education Department offers several options for seniors who don’t pass the required tests after several attempts. More information on exit exam requirements is posted to the APS website: www.aps.edu/schools/graduation-requirements.

Sincerely yours,

G. Antonio Gonzales
Principal