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Skyline has such a long history of excellence when it comes specifically to academics. That is most easily demonstrated via the amazing data that defines academic success. Skyline graduation rate is extremely high and has seemingly always been so. ACT, AP/IB exams show that students take a rigorous course of study and learn a great deal. The state examinations create data that also helps to define the academic prowess of Skyline High School. These exams are called the ASPIRE+. We use this data specifically to define the quality of our instruction and to help us as we make improvements. It is a very important measure to us as we are focusing our efforts to improve achievement and growth on these exams.

ASPIRE+ comprises four assessments and is given only in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. The four exams are in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science. The exams have questions produced by the state as well as through ACT. The intent is to better prepare or measure the preparation of students for the ACT. Each assessment is grade specific not content specific. This means every Freshman takes the same science test regardless of their science class. The same is true for all four exams. Teachers work to infuse the skills assessed on the exams into their content. This makes the courses more about building comprehensive academic skills that will benefit them for a lifetime

We have adjusted our test dates to hopefully maximize the abilities of our students. We give only two tests per day and then test over a two-day period, with make ups for those who were absent to follow. This also ensures all students can attend their classes as we run a shortened schedule on these test dates. We break up the tests so as not to exhaust focus. Science and Reading are the first day and Mathematics and English are the second day.

The ASPIRE+ is scheduled for April 18-19. My hope is that this alerts families to this upcoming assessment so you can work with us to prepare students to perform their very best. In this way we can determine how well we are doing at providing meaningful learning for every student. It is imperative for our school improvement efforts to get reliable data about our efforts to help each student learn and grow, and this is how we do it. Please, partner with us in promoting the importance of these exams and the preparation for them.

We want to hear from you about the teachers at Skyline. Please, take a moment each week and tell us about the great things happening in the classrooms of Skyline High School. We created a new link for this year starting today. This is a link for this:

<https://forms.gle/ucQADTDhwRXkFvD2A>

This week the Skyline community honors Guijun Zhang. Today I was lucky enough to attend the Lunar New year Assembly directed by Zhang Laoshi and beautifully performed by all her Chinese Language students. There was a delightful mix of traditional and modern/popular music and dance. Interspersed with entertaining and informative narration of the meaning and significance of the Lunar New Year. This incredible performance showcased so many of the students' talents: Not only in speaking and singing the language, but also in dance, instrumental performance, and public speaking. Because she cares to learn about each of her students individually and wants them to succeed. Zhang Laoshi brings out the very best in her students, and they respond with joyful, entertaining, and memorable performances such as this one. Her work is to be applauded and deeply appreciated. It's wonderful to have her here at Skyline. Thanks Ms. Zhang, for all you do to help Skyline Eagles RISE

Sincerely,

Dr. Mitch Nerdin, Principal

Skyline High School