



**PORT JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EARL L. VANDERMEULEN HIGH SCHOOL  
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Jessica Schmettan  
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Eric Haruthunian  
Building Principal

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Assistant Principal

April 27, 2021

Dear Port Jefferson Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. As we approach the conclusion of the 20-21 school year, we would like to share updates regarding the status of our year end assessments. The US Department of Education has not approved the full state assessment waiver from NYSED. However, The USDE has granted a partial waiver of these assessments. NYSED will offer the following Regents exams in June:

- Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 8:00AM – English Regents
- Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 8:00AM – Living Environment
- Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 8:00AM – Algebra 1
- Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 8:00AM – Earth Science (only written exam/no practical)

**NYSED has released guidelines regarding testing and expectations surrounding the Regents exams:**

*Regulations are amended to allow students who have met the standards for the course of study, as locally determined, to be eligible for an exemption to the examination requirements. To qualify for such an exemption to the diploma requirements, students must meet **one** of the following criteria:*

- *The student is currently enrolled in a course of study culminating in a Regents Examination and by the end of the 2021 school year, or the 2021 summer session, will have earned credit in such course of study;*
- *The student was previously enrolled in the course culminating in the applicable Regents Examination, has achieved course credit, and has not yet passed the associated required Regents Examination but was intending to take the test in June 2021 or August 2021 to achieve a passing score; or*
- *The student is in grade 7 or 8, is enrolled in a course of study culminating in taking a Regents Examination and has met the standards assessed in the provided coursework.*
- *Students who take one of the four Regents Examinations being administered in June 2021 and fail, may still qualify for an exemption to the diploma requirement associated with the examination, as long as they meet one of the eligibility requirements above. In addition, the August 2021 Regents exams are cancelled, because they are not required under ESSA.*

Under this USDE partial waiver, all accountability elements associated with Regents exams will be waived. However, we are still strongly encouraging all of our students to attempt the Regents exams as a measure of student readiness for future classes in each core curriculum area.

With this waiver, we are shifting our traditional final average weighting from 20% per quarter and an additional 20% for Regents exams to a quarter weighting of 25% for the 20-21 school year in all core classes. In addition, we will use the score earned on the Regents exam as a test grade in a student’s 4<sup>th</sup> quarter average only if it helps the student. At the end of June, parents and students will receive communication from the guidance office regarding how their Regents Exam

scores for 20-21 school year are reflected on their transcript. Students will have the option to have their Regents score or the letter code of E “exempt” in lieu of a numerical grade. NYSED does require all scores recorded on a student’s permanent record, but students, as stated above, will have the option of the letter code E in lieu of a numerical score.

Fully remote students will not be required to take these exams, however we strongly encourage you to take these exams. If you are a parent of a full remote student who would like your child to take a Regents exam in the school building, you are encouraged to exercise that option. Please contact your guidance counselor.

Due to the reduction of the number of Regents exams offered in June 2021, we will need to extend the last day of classes in order to meet the 180 day requirement. NYSED is not offering a Regents exam on Friday, June 18, 2021 and Monday, June 21, 2021. These days will be an instructional day where students follow their normal schedule.

As we learn more about the changes in regulations and the assessment schedule, we will communicate all additional information with details and logistics.

Sincerely,

*Eric Haruthunian*

Eric Haruthunian  
High School Principal