



February 22, 2012

Dear CHHS Families:

GCISD's 2011-2012 Early Release Calendar shows March 7, 2012, as a day when high school students are dismissed early after completion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Students in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades will still take the English/Language Arts TAKS on March 7; that day, however, is **no longer an early release day** and a **modified schedule will be in place for all students**, including those in grades 9 and 12.

Students in grades 10 and 11 should arrive on campus by 8:35 a.m. on March 7 to begin the TAKS. All sophomores and juniors will be taking the English Language Arts portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests from 8:35 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The assessment must be passed for graduation and will be used by colleges to determine readiness for higher education. Please make sure your child is present and well rested. Additionally, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade will have an opportunity to exempt final exams in selected classes with a passing and/or commended performance on the TAKS test.

Those in grades 9 and 12 should arrive by 11:50 a.m. to be counted as present in compliance with state attendance laws. The state requires that students are in attendance a minimum of four hours. All students will be released at our regular time at 3:50 p.m. We believe that by having all students report, we can address items such as school culture, bullying, and college/career readiness that are important to highlight and that don't necessarily fit into just one content. It is our goal to effectively use this time to address items that students need to know to become successful contributors to our community. Attendance will be taken during each class meeting that afternoon.

As you may know, GCISD receives funding for daily student attendance. This change will prevent a significant loss of state funding to the district by being able to count all grade levels in the student attendance for the day. In previous years, only seniors were counted as non-testing students but beginning this year 9<sup>th</sup> graders are included because of the shift from TAKS testing to the new STARR/EOC assessment. The loss of funding would have been double that of previous years.

**We strongly encourage all students to bring a sack lunch.** Nutritional services has been very accommodating in working with us, but we strongly encourage students to bring their own sack lunch, especially if they are testing that morning. Teachers will be taking a lunch count in the morning. Students must have money in their account for a sack lunch (sandwich, fruit, milk) provided by the cafeteria. We will provide lunches for students who qualify for free and reduced meals.

Buses will run on the regular schedule for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade testers. There will be another bus run 3 ½ hours later than usual for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Shuttle buses will not run between high schools on these days. Students will be required to report to the Panther Den for classes they normally attend at Grapevine High School.

Testing students should bring a #2 pencil and a book or magazine to read when finished testing. Schoolwork, talking or use of any electronic device will not be allowed during testing time. Students should dress in layers in order to maximize their comfort during testing.

The adjusted schedule for the day is as follows:

**Testing 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 8:35-11:50**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade report to Panther Den for lunch: 11:50-12:35**

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade report to Auditorium: 11:50-12:35**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade report to Auditorium: 12:40-1:25**

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade report to Panther Den for lunch: 12:40-1:25**

**All students report to 3<sup>rd</sup> Period: 1:30-2:13**

**All students report to 1<sup>st</sup> Period: 2:18- 3:01**

**All students report to 8<sup>th</sup> Period: 3:06-3:50**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding regarding this change of schedule.

Sincerely,

Becky Prentice  
Principal  
Colleyville Heritage High School