

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the Spring Testing that is happening at Riggs High School on Wednesday, April 4th and Thursday, April 5th. There will be no regular classes held on these two days. Your student will come to school ONLY at their designated testing time. Please note that Freshman, Juniors, and Seniors all need their computer for testing. Sophomores need a calculator and pencil. Lunch is provided for anyone who would like to eat at school, but students are not required to stay in the building for the scheduled lunchtime.

Information about each test can be found on the chart below. There is no need to study in preparation for these assessments. We do, however ask that students try their best and get plenty of rest the night before testing. This testing is very important for your child, T.F Riggs High School and the Pierre School District. Thank you for supporting your child, and our school, during the test. Please call if you have any questions.

Spring 2018 Testing

Wednesday, April 4th & Thursday, April 5th
(Lunch Served from 10:45 – 12:15 each day)

<i>Seniors</i> <i>National Career Readiness Exam</i> <i>(computer-based test)</i>	<i>Juniors</i> <i>Smarter Balanced & SDSA</i> <i>(science)</i> <i>(computer-based test)</i>	<i>Sophomores</i> <i>Pre-ACT</i> <i>(Paper/Pencil)</i>	<i>Freshmen</i> <i>ACT ASPIRE</i> <i>(computer-based test)</i>
April 4 th 8:15 – 12:00 NCRC in gym	April 4 th 9:45 – 2:30 Testing in designated rooms Testing Session 1: 9:45 – 12:00 12:00 – 12:40 Lunch Testing session 2: 12:40 – 2:30	April 4 th 9:00 – 11:00 Testing in designated classroom	April 4 th 12:00 – 3:00 Testing in designated classroom
April 5 th 8:15 – 9:15 NCRC in gym 9:30 – 2:45 Wisdom Retreat *Students may not leave at lunch. a sack lunch will be provided, or students may bring their own lunch.	April 5 th 9:45 – 2:30 Testing in Designated Rooms Testing Session 3: 9:45 – 12:00 12:00 – 12:40 Lunch Testing Session 4: 12:40 – 2:30	April 5 th 9:00 – 11:00 Testing in designated classroom	April 5 th 12:00 – 2:45 Testing in designated classroom

9th Grade ACT Aspire: Your student will be taking the ACT Aspire [English, math, reading, science and writing] assessment at designated times. ACT Aspire will give important information that will allow us to determine how your child is progressing at their current grade level, as well as along their overall path toward future college and career readiness. It includes important skills, abilities, and knowledge your student has now, and which ones still need to be learned, in order to be academically successful in post-secondary opportunities. ACT Aspire will also provide specific suggestions for improving skills.

10th Grade Pre-ACT: Your student will be taking the PreACT [English, math, reading, and science] assessment at designated times. Taking the PreACT is the first actionable step a student will take to practice for the ACT test. PreACT will help your student, and their teacher, understand where your student is succeeding, as well as where extra help or academic focus is needed. PreACT will also provide specific suggestions for improving skills.

11th Grade

Smarter Balanced: With the current state standards, students are working harder, thinking more critically, and applying their learning to the real world. To measure these standards, educators from multiple states have worked together to develop high-quality tests in English and Math for grades 3–8 and 11. Not only do these tests aid Riggs High School in school improvement and state accreditation, they also offer an additional assessment for colleges to use when placing students in the appropriate classes at the post-secondary level. This assessment will be completely online.

South Dakota Science Assessment (SDSA): The South Dakota Science tests measures students' mastery of the South Dakota State Academic Standards in Science adopted in May, 2015 at grades 5, 8, and 11. This test will cover the grade spans of 3-5, 6-8, and high school. Questions will come equally as possible from life, physical, and earth sciences at all 3 tested levels. This assessment will be completely online.

12th Grade

National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) T. F. Riggs High School is partnering with the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation to offer all seniors a unique opportunity to take the NCRC assessment. The National Career Readiness Certification is a credential based on the WorkKeys® assessments that substantiates to employers that an individual possesses the basic workplace skills required for 21st century jobs. The NCRC is a benefit to our senior students, giving them a head start if they are entering the world of work immediately after graduation or several years down the road following college graduation.

Wisdom Retreat: Seniors will be participating in the Wisdom Retreat put on by Youth Frontiers out of Minnesota on April 5th from 9:15am - 2:45pm. Please help us in stressing the importance of this event. Visit with your student to make sure that they don't schedule work or appointments during this time.

The key learning objectives of this retreat include:

1. Nurture wise choices for the remainder of the school year and beyond
2. Increase school connectedness during a critical time in their lives.
3. Provide Seniors with the opportunity to strengthen relationships and bring healthy closure to their high school years.

If you'd like more information about this retreat, please visit

[https://www.youthfrontiers.org/wisdom-retreat/`](https://www.youthfrontiers.org/wisdom-retreat/)