



November 14, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The new North Carolina testing program (*PLAN*, *WorkKeys*, and the *ACT Plus Writing*) will all be administered this year. Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 are required to participate in the designated assessments as explained below. There is no cost to your child or to the school system for the administration of these assessments. The *PLAN*, *WorkKeys* and *ACT Plus Writing* are all assessments that are developed and provided by ACT, Inc. in Iowa City, IA.

The PLAN is a curriculum based achievement test in English, Math, Reading, and Science, that measures college and career readiness, serves as a midpoint assessment, and is also a predictor for the *ACT*. The *PLAN*, which is administered to all students in Grade 10, will be given on a designated day between December 5 and 16, 2011. The specific date will be posted on the school's website. (<http://fvhs.wcpss.net/>)

WorkKeys is a test to help assess student job skills. *WorkKeys* will be administered to students in Grade 12 who are enrolled in a level II Career and Technical Education (CTE) course. The online assessment will be administered in February, 2012.

The ACT Plus Writing assessment will be administered to all students in Grade 11 on March 6 with a makeup day on March 20, 2012. The *ACT* includes the same elements as the *PLAN*, plus a writing component.

Students testing with accommodations, including LEP students, who have an up-to-date IEP or 504 Plan, will receive a separate letter from the school regarding the accommodation request process for the *ACT Plus Writing*. This letter must be signed and returned to the school for appropriate submission to the *ACT*.

The NC Department of Public Instruction approved the implementation of the *ACT* in preparation for the state's new accountability model to provide additional diagnostic tools for students and their teachers. This year, the *ACT* assessments results can be used by students for college admissions purposes.

For additional information regarding the *ACT* assessments, please feel free to go to <http://www.act.org/>. Questions can also be answered by contacting Fuquay-Varina High School, the WCPSS Testing Office at 856-3788 for the *PLAN* and *ACT* assessments, or the WCPSS CTE Office at 431-7446 for the *WorkKeys*.

Sincerely,

Edward S. McFarland
Principal

"The mission of Fuquay-Varina High School is to foster student learning where success is the only option."