

The Principal's Thoughts
Woodrow Wilson High School 4-26-16
We are About Safety and Supervision First

The end of the year summative tests are approaching. Beginning the week of May 2 -6 or sophomores will be testing. Freshmen will test the week of May 9 -13. Juniors will test May 16 -19.

Additionally we have semester exams scheduled. Seniors take semester exams on May 11 and 12 with a make up day on May 13. Underclassmen students take semester exams on June 1 and June 2. Their make up day, and last day of school is June 3.

Often, it seems to me, students look at exams and tests as something we do too them instead of something we do for them. I suppose I understand that feeling. Accountability can be uncomfortable. I can relate to that feeling.

It seems to me though the only thing harder than knowing you need to improve on something is not knowing you need to improve. I would make the comparison though to taking your blood pressure or going to the dentist for a check up. Cavities do not hurt and blood pressure is a silent killer I am told. Just like a yearly physical and a bi-annual visit to the dentist our testing is designed to give us all feedback so we can plan for the future. It would also seem that healthy accountability functions as a positive motivator.

It is still true though that our students are worth more than the sum of their tests scores. I suspect we all are actually to somebody. That is why I always teach a focus on safety and supervision first when I teach staff the core values of our school. This perspective helps us when we think about testing. Testing is important to our collective future, but not the most important thing. I trust everyone will do their best and prepare well for their tests and exams. You will never regret it. By the same token try to manage the pressure you might put on yourself. Ultimately, all any of us can do is our best.