

## Administration

675 East Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018  
phone 610-868-2971 | fax 610-868-1446

September 8, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts will be administering Keystone Exams during two testing windows this year: **January 7-21, 2015** and **May 13-27, 2015**. You are receiving this letter because your child may be required to participate in one or more exams. Attendance and participation in the Keystone Exams is state required and mandatory. No absences will be excused during these windows.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, “the Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to evaluate proficiency in academic content. The exams are designed to measure the state’s Common Core Standards, which align toward college and workplace success” (PDE website). The Keystone Exams determine and rate each student’s mastery of content knowledge as Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic, with scores ranging from 1200 to 1800. To earn a score of proficient, a student must earn a minimum score of 1500.

Students currently enrolled in Biology, Algebra 1, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Literature will be required to take the related Keystone Exams during the May testing wave.

Any students that have already taken the exams and have not yet earned a score of Proficient will be required to retake the exam(s) in January and again in May if necessary. PDE requires that schools provide remediation prior to retesting, and Charter Arts will be supporting students and providing remediation as necessary.

If your child has already taken and passed one or more of these exams, then they will not need to retake those exams.

If your child took the Keystones during the Spring 2014 wave, your individual score report is in the mail, as we just received these from PDE late last week. You should receive it within the next week.

Please read the enclosed document from the PA Department of Education, as it might help answer any additional questions or concerns that you may have. In addition, during our back-to-school night, I will be discussing Keystone Exams during the administrative parent meeting in the Black Box Theater and can address general questions during that time. If you have a specific question about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me at [ccomstock@charterarts.org](mailto:ccomstock@charterarts.org).

Sincerely,

Carise Comstock  
Dean of Academic Affairs, Curriculum, and Instruction