Information Regarding SAT Subject Test in Biology

On June 4, 2016, the SAT Subject Test will be given in Biology. There are two different tests, Biology-E and Biology-M. Special emphasis is placed on either ecology (Biology-E) or molecular biology (Biology-M), with recognition that evolution is inherent in both. Sixty of the eighty questions are common to both Biology E and M, followed by 20 questions specializing in either ecology or molecular biology. Students do not need to decide which test (E or M) they will take until the day of the exam.

The science department’s recommendation is that students receiving an A- or above in Honors Biology take the exam. It is recommended that students receiving below an A- in Honors Biology consult with their teacher about the appropriateness of the test. Students have had success taking either the molecular or ecology versions of the biology exam and it is the department’s recommendation that all students discuss test options with their biology teacher. Information about registering for the SAT Subject Tests can be found at http://www.collegeboard.org/. The registration deadline for the test in June is May 5, 2016.

The Concord-Carlisle Biology curriculum was not designed with the intent of preparing students for the SAT Subject Test in Biology. Therefore, past experience has demonstrated that additional preparation is necessary for a student to achieve success on the exam. Students have had good success preparing on their own with a review book (The Princeton Review’s Cracking the SAT Biology E/M Subject Test is one choice and is the same book the review course mentioned below uses.). Other students have found a review course helpful. A fee-based review course for the SAT Subject Test in Biology is being offered through the Community Education department and will be held at CCHS (Other course options elsewhere may also be available to you.). The courses cover material for both the Biology-E and Biology-M exam. There are two separate sections available. Section one will be held on six Thursdays (April 28 – June 2) from 2:20 - 4:20pm. Section two will be held on four Sundays (May 1 – May 22) from 1:00 - 4:00pm. Be aware that enrollment is limited and early enrollment is advised. To register for one of the course sections, please contact Concord-Carlisle Community Education at (978) 318-1432; or online at www.ace.colonial.net.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at krusilas@concordps.org.

Regards,

Kathleen Rusilas
Science Teacher - CCHS