

Bernards Township Public Schools  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction  
102 Peachtree Rd.  
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920

Brian Heineman  
Supervisor of Science and Technology

Phone: 908-204-2585 Ext. 164  
Bheineman@bernardsboe.com

On May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, students enrolled in their first Biology course will be taking the New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT). This test is designed to assess their proficiency in the Biology content area standards in the same way their proficiency in Language Arts and Mathematics are assessed in the New Jersey High School Proficiency Assessment (NJ HSPA).

While students have been participating in the pilot assessment for the past several years, starting with the students in the class of 2014, the NJBCT will be a graduation requirement. Students deemed below proficient will be required to remediate and demonstrate proficiency at a later date. The state has yet to determine the process that will be taking place to reassess students that do not achieve a proficient score.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, all Biology students will be receiving two informational brochures that will provide you with more detailed information regarding the test format and requirements. Please read these over and encourage your child to approach his Biology teacher with any questions or concerns.

If after reviewing the brochures, you still have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the above email address and phone number. You can also find updates on the New Jersey Department of Education website: [www.state.nj.us/education](http://www.state.nj.us/education).

Sincerely,

*Brian Heineman*

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