

# Science FCAT required to graduate

**Meagan Coakley**  
**Staff Reporter**

At Cape Coral High School, and any other school in Florida for that matter, the science portion of the FCAT test will be required to be taken, and passed, by anybody graduating high school, starting with the freshmen this year or possibly the sophomores.

Beginning with the class of 2012, or possibly 2011, Florida Legislature made the decision approximately three years ago, meaning students have had ample opportunity to prepare.

With only 38% of current seniors having passed the science FCAT, teachers are trying to work with students by covering material in class that will help them on the test. "A couple of years of

practice will probably result in a rise taking it [science FCAT] up equal to the other tests [math FCAT and reading FCAT]. We have bright students," said Jim Welton, assistant principal when asked how he thought students would do on science FCAT this year.

With the current percentage of passing science FCAT students being so small, administration recognizes the students' needs for assistance. Additional help is offered beforehand in the form of tutoring, and retakes are allowed up until a student graduates.

While administration is happy about the changes made, some students seem less enthusiastic. "I really don't like the idea having to take the science FCAT seriously, I already have plenty on my plate," said Lindsey VanVlymen, sopho-

more, when asked how she felt about the science FCAT being required to get a diploma her senior year.

Other students feel that science FCAT provides them with many opportunities. "I feel that having to pass the science FCAT will make me a broader based knowledge person, and the more widespread my knowledge the better off I'll be in life," said Laura Parker, sophomore, when asked how she thought the change would affect her.

Additionally, some feel that counting science FCAT creates an advantage for Cape High. "I don't like giving tests that don't count, because we're so crowded with what needs to be covered over the school year," said Welton, when asked if he thought the change would be beneficial to the school.