



March 26, 2021

Dear Parents of Elementary Students,

With the cancelation of PSSAs during the pandemic, understanding the strengths and weaknesses of our students has never been more important. These state normed assessments are an important tool to support all students as we navigate through a post-pandemic program and assist in identifying learning growth and loss.

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests will be administered to students beginning the week of May 3, 2021 for Virtual Academy students. The ELA assessment will be given the week of May 3rd. The Math assessment will be given the week of May 10th. Fourth graders will also take the PSSA Science test the week of May 10th. Third and fourth grade students will take the tests in the AM from about 9:00-11:30 AM. Fifth and sixth grade students will take the tests in the PM from about 1:00-3:30 PM.

Though we understand the choice to remain virtual, students will need to come into the building to take the tests. All students will be adhering to Covid-19 safety protocols as listed in the district Safety and Health reopening plan and procedures during the testing time. Wearing of masks will be required. These tests are mandatory. Therefore, any student who is absent during the testing windows will make up the test sections. Please complete the [transportation survey](#) regarding the need for transportation on testing dates.

These tests are designed to measure student progress toward achievement of the Pennsylvania Standards and Assessment Anchors. The results will not be used to grade students. Individual student reports, school, district, and state data will be obtained from the ELA, math and science assessments. Information derived from these assessments will help to plan future school programs and curriculum development. There is no teacher accountability tied to the PSSA tests or Keystone Exams for the 2020-2021 school year. The results will be available in the fall of 2021.

You can help your child prepare for the PSSAs by seeing that he/she obtains a good night's sleep and eats a nutritious breakfast each morning. Explain the importance of the tests and encourage your child to do his/her best. Your continued support in helping your child be successful is greatly appreciated.

Please remember students should not bring any [electronic devices](#) (e.g., cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, etc.) other than an approved calculator, if applicable. We encourage parents and students to review the [exam code of](#)

[conduct](#) and [calculator policy](#). Lastly, please review the [PSSA](#) frequently asked questions.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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