



**PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
S.S. PALMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

298 Lafayette Avenue
Palmerton, Pennsylvania 18071
610-826-7538, Fax 610-826-7528
Mary A. Brumbach, Principal

The Palmerton Area School District community is committed to the success of all students by creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment through a well-planned, challenging, technology-integrated, and continuously evolving curriculum that promotes life-long learning.

April 3, 2019

Dear Parents or Guardians,

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based assessment given to students in Grades 3 – 8 in public schools in Pennsylvania. This year we will administer the tests at S.S. Palmer as per the following schedule:

GRADES	SUBJECTS	TESTING DATES
3 – 6	ELA	April 16, 17 & 18
	Make Up Tests	April 18 – 26, as needed
3 – 6	Math	April 30 & May 1
	Make Up Tests	May 2 – May 15, as needed
4	Science	May 2
	Make Up Tests	May 3 – May 15, as needed

Testing schedules will vary in each building within the district. Schedules are developed to best accommodate the needs of the students.

Enclosed with this letter you will find Frequently Asked Questions issued by PDE that you may find helpful.

To assist your son or daughter in performing his/her best on the test, we ask you to ensure he/she has a good night's sleep the night before the testing and to provide a nourishing meal the morning of the testing. In addition, we ask that you encourage your child to give his/her best effort on the tests to ensure an accurate reflection of his/her skill level.

As parents, you may set up a confidential review of the assessments by calling to make arrangements with the school principal. However, no copies or notes about the assessment items will be permitted to leave the school.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this testing, please feel free to contact me at 610-826-7538, extension 3004. You may also obtain more information regarding the PSSA from the website <http://www.education.state.pa.us>.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Brumbach

Mary A. Brumbach, Principal



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I • M • P • O • R • T • A • N • T

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As you know, the PSSA tests are quickly approaching. **The ELA tests will be given April 16 – 18 to third through sixth grades. The MATH tests will be given April 30 & May 1 to third through sixth grades. Fourth Grade will take SCIENCE on May 2 (AM & PM).** ELA and MATH will be given in the morning only, with any make-ups required being given in the afternoon.

We have been preparing the students for the tests since the beginning of the school year. We are confident that they are ready to take the PSSA tests!

We do need your assistance in helping them to be ready for test day. There are some things you can do at home to ensure your child is ready to do his/her best work for this assessment.

- **Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep on each night before a test is given.** The PSSA tests are mentally draining so your child may come home exhausted
- **Have your child eat a healthy breakfast before coming to school each test day.** The lunch schedule has been adjusted to ensure our students have enough time to finish the test, so breakfast will be very important. Students in grades 3 – 6 will also receive a healthy breakfast snack in their classrooms prior to the testing. However, breakfast will not be available for grades 3 – 6 on testing days. Breakfast will be available for Grade 2 as usual
- **Have your child come to school even if they are feeling slightly ill. (If they are feeling ill, much of it may be due to nervousness about the test.)** It is much less stressful to take the test as a group than to have to make it up later individually
- On the back of this paper you will find the Code of Conduct for Test Takers provided by Pennsylvania Department of Education, which you may discuss with your child/ren and Ms. Brumbach and Mrs. Manning will be discussing this with the students on April 15th.
- There will be no homework assigned or tests in other subjects the days of PSSA testing

Thank you in advance for helping us show our state that the students at S. S. Palmer Elementary School truly are the best!