

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On April 10, 11 and 12 our 7th and 8th grade students will be taking the PSSA English Language Arts assessment tests. On April 17 and 18 our 7th and 8th grade students will be taking the PSSA Mathematics assessment test and on April 24 and 25 our 8th grade students will be taking the PSSA Science assessment test. Please allow me to remind everyone of the importance of all these assessments. The PSSA testing process is designed to provide information to parents, the school district and the general public about the quality of our schools.

As a parent of one of our students, you have the right to review the test materials in advanced. You have to make an appointment to review the test by calling the Junior High School office at 610-826-2492 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM from March 28th through April 4th. Please note that if you choose to review the test, you must sign a statement attesting that you will maintain confidentiality. You should note that you will not be permitted to make copies of the test or to take notes during your review. If after reviewing the test materials you determine that it conflicts with your religious beliefs, you must inform the Superintendent of Schools in writing prior to the first day of testing.

The state has also warned us that the use of cell phones of any kind during the test is prohibited. If a student must bring a cell phone to school on these days, the phone must be kept in their locker. This guideline has been established by the state.

Given the importance of these tests it is imperative that your child has the best possible testing environment. We will be providing a free breakfast/snack for all students. Please note that the regular breakfast will not be offered during these testing times. Please make sure that your child has plenty of rest each night and that he/she arrives at school in a timely manner. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Rich DeSocio

Principal- Junior High School

Cc: S. Engler - Superintendent
D. Heaney - Curriculum and Instruction
K. Carroll – Guidance Counselor



Dear Parent/Guardian:

In an era of cell phones, smartphones and other electronic devices which can easily photograph and instantly share photographs, confidential and secure test materials can be easily compromised. Not only is it expensive to replace a compromised test item, the material contained in the PSSA and Keystone Exams is copyrighted property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Copying or duplicating the material from the assessment, including the taking of a photograph of secure assessment material, is a violation of the federal Copyright Act. Penalties for violations of the Copyright Act may include the cost of replacing the compromised test item(s) or fines of no less than \$750 up to \$30,000 for a single violation (17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.).

In order to ensure reliable test results and to avoid the cost of replacing test items, the Department of Education requires schools to set rules and take certain steps to protect test materials. Electronic devices such as but not limited to cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, E-readers, Nooks, Kindles, iPods, tablets, camera-ready devices, and any other electronic device which can be used to photograph or duplicate test materials, access the internet and/or communicate with others during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams are not permitted in any testing site. Please speak with your child and let him or her know that the possession and/or use of a cell phone or other electronic device during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams will result in consequences.

You will be contacted by the school if your child is discovered using and/or having a cell phone or other electronic device in his or her possession during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams. Students who ignore this directive will be subject to the school's discipline policy and the Department of Education's requirement that the student's test will not be scored and the student will be required to retake the entire exam. The electronic device will be held by school staff, and the device's stored photographs and other functions will be examined with your permission. You may request to be present when the electronic device is examined. If a photograph of the PSSA or Keystone Exam is discovered or if permission to search other functions of the electronic device is refused, the device will be held by the school staff. The Pennsylvania Department of Education holds the copyright to all material contained within the PSSA and Keystone Exams, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be contacted and further action may be taken.

If, after testing is complete and test materials have been returned, it is discovered that a student used and/or had a cell phone or other electronic device in his or her possession during the administration of the test, the school's discipline policy will be followed and the student's scores will be invalidated.