

March 15, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Beginning on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 we will administer the PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) according to the schedule below:

April 7 thru 16 – Math and Reading in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11

April 19 thru 23 – Writing in grades 5, 8 and 11

April 26 thru 30 – Science in grades 4, 8 and 11

May 3 thru 7 – Make-ups for all subjects and grades

The reading and math assessments consist of a total of six sections, three reading and three math.

The writing assessment consists of five passages with four multiple-choice items per passage and three writing prompts. The multiple-choice items and the writing prompts are presented as four separate sections.

The science assessment in grades 4 and 8 will consist of two sections and grade 11 will consist of three sections. Each section takes approximately one hour including both multiple choice and open-ended questions. The science assessment addresses four major categories: The Nature of Science, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Earth and Space Sciences which are aligned to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

Schedules will be developed by the principals for each participating grade level to provide adequate time for students to complete the assessments. These assessments will provide the District with data on the strengths and areas of improvement in the reading/writing, math, and science curriculum, as well as give us data on individual student performance.

Attached for your review are the Frequently Asked Questions on the state assessments in reading and math, writing, and science. As in the past, we very much appreciate your support in emphasizing the importance of these assessments and that each child does his/her best work.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call me at (412) 221-4542, Extension 710.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Bisignani
Assistant to the Superintendent

Attachments

cc: Dr. Bille Rondinelli
Building Principals
Building Counselors