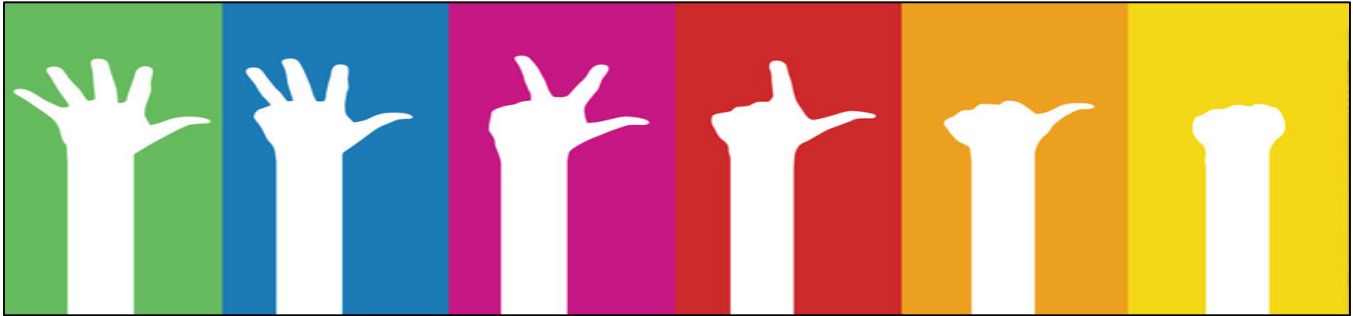




2017 COUNTDOWN TO THE PSSAs
38 Days and Counting...



What is the PSSA?

The Pennsylvania State System of Assessment, PSSA, assesses students in order to provide information concerning their achievement and the achievement of the school. Results are used by principals and teachers to help monitor student growth and achievement.

Why do the tests matter?

Although test results are only one measure of student achievement, they have become increasingly important in assessing student learning. PSSA results provide an indication of whether students are making progress toward the mastery of state content standards.

How are the tests scored?

PSSA results show the level of proficiency a student demonstrates in each of the subject areas tested – English Language Arts, Math and Science. Students are rated at one of four levels: below basic, basic, proficient and advanced. **The goal is for all students to score at or above the proficient level.**

How is the school preparing my child for the PSSA?

We prepare students for the test every day by teaching a curriculum that is aligned to the core state standards that are measured by the PSSA. We then use the results from Benchmark exams taken periodically throughout the year to measure if your child has mastered the content that will be appear on the PSSA.

In addition to the regular curriculum, for the next 38 days, your child will be receiving the following additional help from our school:

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When will the PSSA be taken?

- April 3-7: English Language Arts (Grades 3-8)
- April 21-28: Math (Grades 3-8)
- May 1-4: Science (Grades 4 and 8)

What can I do NOW to support my child's success?

Results on standardized tests are not the sole indicator of student achievement. You can help your child by doing the following:

- Reviewing last year's results with them and by continuing to encourage them to do their best.
- Be positive and share your knowledge with other parents.
- Ask your child to talk in detail about what they are learning.
- Read a variety of materials to and with your child.
- Provide opportunities to learn new things at home and in the community.
- Praise hard work rather than perfection.
- Support your child when faced with challenging work – reward them for sticking with a tough problem.
- Encourage writing at home for real purposes – do it together using evidence and details.
- Push your child to know basic facts.
- Provide structured/quiet time to work on challenging tasks at home.
- Use math in everyday life – bank, store, etc.

Where can I go to get more information?

Please contact your child's principal or teacher for more information about the PSSA or your child's academic progress. Additional information about the PSSA can be found on the following websites:

- **Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)** - www.education.pa.gov: PDE provides resources for educators and parents to be informed and prepare for state assessments. PSSA Information – timelines, key points, etc. You can see the types of questions that are on the tests (item samplers).
- **Pennsylvania Standards Aligned System** – www.pdesas.org: A comprehensive, researched-based resource to improve student achievement. SAS identifies six elements that impact student achievement – one being standards.
- **National PTA Resources** - www.pta.org: The *Parents' Guides to Student Success* were developed by teachers, parents and education experts in response to the Common Core State Standards that more than 45 states have adopted. Created for grades K-8, high school English language arts/literacy and mathematics the guides provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and career.