



Dassa McKinney Elementary School

Moniteau School District

391 Hooker Road, West Simons, PA 16061

724-637-2321 FAX 724-637-5877

March 27, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to inform you of the upcoming Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests that your child will complete during the months of April and May. Students in Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 will complete the English Language Arts (ELA) PSSA test during the week of April 22-26, 2024, and the Mathematics PSSA test on April 29 and 30, 2024. In addition, students in Grade 4 will complete the Science PSSA test on May 2 and 3, 2024..

On the reverse side of this letter you will find an important message from the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding cell phones and electronic devices as they relate to PSSA testing. Please read this letter carefully, as there are major consequences for students who are found to be in possession of a cell phone or electronic device while completing PSSA tests.

As always, we ask that you encourage your child or children to put forth their best effort at school. In addition, a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast are always beneficial to help our students showcase the best of their knowledge and ability. This year will look different in the way our students take the PSSA tests. Please make sure that your child's Chromebook is fully charged, as they will be taking the test electronically. If you have any questions or concerns regarding PSSA testing, please contact us in the Dassa McKinney Elementary office.

Sincerely,

Kevin Boariu
Principal

Chad Dillon
Assessment Coordinator

CC: Mrs. Aubrie Schnelle, Superintendent

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 your child 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 unapproved electronic device 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 unapproved electronic device during the administration of the test, the school's discipline policy will be followed and the student's test will not be scored.