

March 13, 2017

To: The Parents/Guardians of all Cumberland Valley Students in Grades 3 – 8.

The Pennsylvania State Board of Education state assessment program that will take place in all school districts in the Commonwealth again this school year. Students will be tested during the following windows:

Grades 3 – 8

English Language Arts Assessment, April 3-7, 2017

Grades 3 – 8

Math Assessment, April 24-28, 2017

Grades 4 & 8

Science Assessment, May 1-5, 2017

<p>Please do NOT schedule Educational Trips during testing windows. They cannot be approved.</p>
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Included with this memo is a parent information flier that addresses questions you might have about the PSSA testing program. Please read the flier carefully. If you need further information about the assessments, feel free to contact your child's building principal.

Parents and guardians may choose to review the assessment items after March 21, 2017. To do so, please contact your child's school and schedule an appointment.

In accordance with the State Board of Education's Chapter IV Regulations, the **only reason** a parent/guardian may request that their child be excused from the testing is if the content of the test conflicts with their religious beliefs. If you feel your religious beliefs might conflict with the content of the test, please make an appointment with your school principal to view the test materials before requesting an exemption. Parents who have reviewed the materials and are requesting an exemption for their student must make this request in writing to Dr. Frederick Withum, Superintendent. This request must be received in the Superintendent's office no later than 3:00 PM on March 28, 2017.

Cumberland Valley takes a great deal of pride in our superior PSSA scores. **Please discuss the importance of these assessments with your student and encourage his/her best efforts.** If at all possible, please refrain from scheduling appointments during the testing period. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

March 13, 2017

PSSA Testing and Electronic Devices

As we do every year, our elementary program is preparing to comply with all of the protocols for administration of PSSA testing in grades 3-5. In order to avoid potential conflicts for you and/or your child, we are asking that elementary children DO NOT bring any **electronic devices** to school during our building's testing dates. April 3-7, April 24-28, May 1-5.

We are making this request due to guidelines received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. In part, guidelines indicate:

"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. One step or rule required in all schools is that electronic devices are not permitted at test sites. Electronic devices include cell phones, smartphones, E-readers, Nooks, Kindles, iPads, 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 ..."

We understand that you may have a need for your child to have access to a telephone. Please know and assure your child that he/she may use telephones in the school office. Should you have an extenuating circumstance regarding your child's electronic device, please feel free to contact your child's Principal.