

# **HUNTINGDON AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

2500 Cassady Avenue, Huntingdon, PA 16652

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Mr. Travis R. Lee,  
Secondary Principal

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School Counselor

**"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"**

March 29, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your son or daughter will be taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests during the coming weeks. The purpose of these tests is to assess how learners are progressing toward proficiency in meeting state standards for college and career readiness. The PSSAs will assess English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science. These tests are not only important to monitor individual learner progress, but are also used to judge the overall effectiveness and performance of the school and district. Though the district recognizes that genuine student learning encompasses much more than can be quantified on a standardized test, it is imperative that learners perform to the best of their ability on these exams. Learner performance is used to refine curriculum and programmatic offerings and to professional learning trainings.

It is important for your son or daughter to get plenty of rest the evening before the test and a good breakfast the morning of the test. The ELA and Mathematics tests are administered to Grades 6, 7, and 8. The ELA test will take place on April 10th, 11th, and 12th (3 sections). The Mathematics test will be administered on April 17th and 18th (2 sections). The Science test, for Grade 8 only, is scheduled for April 24th and 25th (2 sections). All testing sections will be administered in the morning, with a modified schedule for the day to follow. Exam make-ups will take place as needed within days after the originally scheduled dates. All exams will be paper-based. Please review the enclosed document, provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), for additional information in regards to the exams.

Please note that in light of increased state accountability measures, the school district will be enforcing measures that ensure test security. Learners will be indicating on the test that they are aware of and will abide by the Code of Conduct for Test Takers (a sample is enclosed). Learners will not be permitted to bring electronic devices or purses and bags to the testing rooms. Learners will be reminded of this upon the commencement of the testing period. In addition, the district may need to contact guardians if there is a violation of this policy, and discipline, including monetary damages, may be administered if there are breaches in test security.

Please wish your learners good luck on the exams, and if you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the school at Middle School Office at (814)643-2900. As always, we strive to provide the best possible education for your learners, and we cannot do this without your continued support.

Sincerely,



Mr. Travis R. Lee,  
Secondary Principal