

# HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



## *Standing Stone Elementary*



10 29th Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652  
(814) 643-0771

Mr. John Miller, Principal

Ms. Anna Boughner, Assistant Principal

Families,

The fourth marking period has arrived and with it comes our annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) testing. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the testing dates and strategies to help your students during the testing window.

Testing for 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade students will occur over two weeks during the morning and will be as follows:

- English Language Arts - **April 23rd, 24th, and 25th**
- Math - **April 29th and 30th**
- Science - (grade 4 only) - **May 1st and 2nd**

During these dates, it will be important for students to be on time and in the building before 8:55 AM. Testing will begin promptly after we have taken attendance. It is also important that students are not scheduled for early dismissals on these dates. If students are scheduled to leave during a testing window, we can not have them begin their test. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments on these dates unless they are toward the end of the day.

### How to help your student be successful:

- Remind students that they should give their best effort. One test does not define them as a person, but they should be giving their best effort.
- Students should eat breakfast each morning. They are welcome to eat in the cafeteria. Breakfast is free this year and we begin serving at 8:30 AM.
- Get to bed early. It is important to get a good night's rest so that students are prepared and ready to work when they come in.

John Miller  
Principal  
Standing Stone Elementary  
(814) 643-0771 ext. 4207



## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TEST TAKERS

### DO ...

- Listen to, read, and follow all directions given.
- Ask questions if you do not understand the directions.
- Read each question carefully, especially multiple-choice items that ask for the "best answer." Also, be sure to read any open-ended items carefully before responding.
- Be careful when marking your answers so that you do not skip spaces or fill in the wrong sections.
- Make sure to completely fill in the bubble for the answer(s) you select and erase completely any answers you change.
- Keep your eyes on your own test.
- Try to answer each test item.
- Check that you have completed all the test items in the test section before closing your test booklet or submitting your final responses online.
- Report any suspected cheating to your teacher or principal.

### DO NOT ...

- Have notes in your possession during the test.
- Have any unapproved electronic devices (cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, earbuds, etc.) in your possession during the test. Note, you may have approved calculators, if applicable, during the test.
- Share a calculator with others.
- Use the bubbles in the answer booklet to either eliminate possible incorrect answers or possible correct answers by making marks in multiple bubbles and erasing. Mark only the bubble for the correct answer(s) you have chosen.
- Talk with others about questions on the test during or after the test. (Students should be assured that they may discuss the testing process or issues of concern with their parents/guardians.)
- Take notes about the test to share with others.
- Leave an online test session until the session is complete or until instructed to do so.
- Use social media to post information about the test and/or test items.

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The PSSAs are an important benchmark for school performance and the information gathered from the tests play an important part in curriculum planning and professional learning, and are connected to the teacher and school evaluation process. It is important for students to participate in the exams, and do their best, as the results provide one measure that is used in the scheduling and instructional decision-making process for students.

The district is subject to a federal requirement to have 95 percent or more of the students participate. Student opt-outs have a negative impact on student participation rate for district and school federal/state accountability measures. ***The ONLY option to not participate is limited to a religious opt-out. Section 4.4 of Title 22, Chapter 4 provides for the rights of any parent or guardian to excuse his or her child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, they find the assessment to be in conflict with their religious beliefs. This is the only basis for a parent or guardian to excuse his or her child from the statewide assessments.***

If you feel you qualify for a religious opt-out please follow these procedures:

1. Parent/Guardian schedules the secure assessment review (to be held at the student's school) at a time convenient for both parties.
  - a. The building principal must be present with the Parent/Guardian at all times during the review of secure test materials.
  - b. Parent/Guardian must surrender any electronic device(s) over to the building principal (to be held until secure review has been completed).
  - c. Parent/Guardian may not take any notes during the secure review.
  - d. Parent/Guardian reviews the assessment (for each content area considering an opt-out). To opt out of all three PSSAs and/or KEYSTONES, all three content area assessments must be reviewed.
  - e. Parent/Guardian signs the Pennsylvania Department of Education Parent Confidentiality Agreement upon review completion.
2. Parent/Guardian if after review find the assessment to be in conflict with their religious beliefs they will document religious objection within a letter addressed to the superintendent, Mrs. Jennifer Mitchell, and submits to the building principal for approval within at least two weeks prior to scheduled testing window.
3. The Superintendent may deny the Parent/Guardian request. In cases of any disapproval, Mrs. Mitchell will contact Parent/Guardian providing notification of the determination.