



**Penn Manor
School District**

A Better Community...One Student at a Time

PENN MANOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1001 • Millersville, PA 17551-0301

Phone (717) 872-9500 • Fax (717) 872-9505

www.pennmanor.net

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Michael G. Lechliter, Ed.D.

Superintendent

mike.lechliter@pennmanor.net

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Parents/Guardians,

Throughout the school year, Penn Manor teachers have been providing instruction to promote your child's academic success. In April and May, all public schools throughout the state of Pennsylvania will administer a series of standardized assessments, known as the Pennsylvania State System of Assessment (PSSA). These assessments encompass English/Language Arts and Math (Grades 3-8), as well as Science (Grades 4 and 8). Further, all students who have taken an Algebra I course will take the Algebra I Keystone Exam. It is vital that all students attend school during the testing windows to participate in the assessments. If students miss school on one of the testing dates, every effort will be made to provide the opportunity for make-up testing sessions. Parent(s) and guardian(s) will receive copies of the assessment results in the fall of 2017.

PSSA (Grades 3-8) – The assessment content area and testing windows are noted below:

April 3 – 7 English/Language Arts
April 24 – 28 Math

May 2 – 5 Science (Grades 4 & 8 only)
May 8 – 22 Make-up sessions

Keystone Algebra I Exams – Only students who have participated in an Algebra I course during middle school experience, will take the Algebra I Keystone Exam. Students who score "Proficient" or "Advanced" on the Algebra I Keystone Exam will not need to take the exam again during their high school experience. Students who score below proficient on this exam will need to take the exam again after further instruction in Algebra occurs.

May 17 – 18 Algebra I Keystone Exam (Only for students enrolled in an Algebra I course)

Do not bring electronic devices to school on the testing dates – The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) requires that schools maintain a high level of test security throughout all dates of the exam. For this reason, we are requesting the support of parents to ensure that students do not bring any electronic devices to school on the testing dates. If a student does bring a device, such as a cell phone, Kindle, iPod, Apple watch, etc., to class with them during testing, they will be prompted to give it to the teacher who proctors the assessment. The device will be labeled and safely stored until the assessment has been completed each day.

FAQ – Parents of students in Grades 3 through 8 should carefully read the attachment, *Information for Parents/Guardians*, that addresses frequently asked questions about the Pennsylvania's System of School Assessments. Should you have questions regarding the PSSA or the Keystone Algebra I Exam, please contact your school principal, who will provide you with additional information.

Your child's academic success is a collaborative effort that involves teachers, parents, and students. Please encourage your child to do his/her best on each portion of the assessment(s). Thank you for your continued support of your child(ren) through their academic journey.

Cheryl Shaffer, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education

Jerry Egan, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

Preparation for PSSA and Keystone Exams 2017

Pre-Planned Educational Trips

- Please be advised that pre-planned trips that coincide with dates during the testing window may be denied and considered on a case-by-case basis (Administrative Regulations 204-AR-3).

Here are a few tips we recommend that you discuss with your child about the assessment:

- 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”.
- Be sure to read any open-ended questions and writing prompts carefully before responding.
- Try to answer each test item.
- **DO NOT bring any electronic devices, (e.g., cell phones, smart phones, Kindles, iPods, etc.)**

Cell phones and other electronic devices – The Pennsylvania Department of Education has indicated that schools and students must ensure the integrity of the PSSA/Keystone Exam administration and appropriate test security. Therefore, we strongly recommend that students do not bring electronic devices to school during the testing window. As noted above, schools and teachers administering the assessments will have measures in place to ensure that tests will not be compromised, in accordance with the state’s requirements. Please be advised that disciplinary measures will be enforced by the school, if any electronic device violation occurs.