

Kutztown Area Middle School

10 Deisher Lane, Kutztown, PA 19530-8602

Phone: 610-683-3575 Fax: 610-683-5460

Mr. Shawn Lynch, Principal

~Maximize Potential, Embrace Change, Create the Future~

February 20, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As mandated by the PA Department of Education, the Kutztown Area School District will again participate in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA) and Keystone Assessments this year. The purpose of the PSSA tests is to assess the achievement levels of all third through eighth grade students in all public school districts in the Commonwealth in the academic areas of English/Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and (fourth and eighth grade only) Science. The Keystone test is an end-of-course assessment for Algebra I. ***Students will take the English/Language Arts assessment at Kutztown Middle School on April 23-25, 2024 and the Mathematics assessment on April 30-May 1, 2024. The Science assessment will be administered (8th grade only) on April 29, 2024. Students who have successfully completed Algebra I will also take the Algebra Keystone on May 14-16, 2024.***

As parents and guardians, you play a vital role in ensuring your child's achievement in school and on these assessments. You can encourage your child and set them up for success. Here are a few suggestions:

- ★ Talk positively about the testing process with encouragement. Try not to oversimplify or exaggerate the importance of the test. You know your child best.
- ★ Refrain from making any school time appointments on the days of testing.
- ★ Keep your children home if they are ill. We have built make-up days into the calendar.
- ★ Ensure your child has a good night's rest and a good breakfast before school.

On the reverse of this letter, you will find a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding cell phones and testing. Also, please also note that in accordance with school board policy, requests for educational trips during this testing window will not be approved. Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation. Should you have questions concerning the PSSAs, please contact Ms. White (kwhite@kasd.org) or me (slynch@kasd.org).

Sincerely,

Mr. Shawn Lynch

Kutztown Area School District does not discriminate in our educational programs, activities or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ancestry or any other legally protected classification. This policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. Information relative to special accommodation, grievance procedure, and the designated responsible official for compliance with Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 may be obtained by contacting the school district. EOE.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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 him or her 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 in his or her possession 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 in his or her possession during the administration of the test, the school's discipline policy will be followed and the student's test will not be scored.