



River Valley Middle School

102 School Lane
Blairsville, PA 15717
(724) 459-5500 Ext. 1103
Fax: (724) 459-9209

April 1, 2025

Dear RVMS Families:

During the months of April & May, all students in grades 6 through 8 are required to take the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). The results of these assessments provide valuable data used for program planning and drive instruction to bridge gaps in student achievement. In the Middle School, these tests are administered online, not paper and pencil.

Students in grades 6-8 will take the English Language Arts and Math PSSAs. In addition, students in grade 8 will also take the Science PSSA. Each PSSA subject area is made up of multiple-choice, selected response, constructed response questions and is written to align with Pennsylvania's Academic Standards. These standards serve as benchmarks for what students should be able to understand at varying grade levels.

River Valley Middle School students will be participating in the state assessments as outlined below:

PSSA Test	Test Dates	Grade Levels
English Language Arts	April 22, 23, 24	6, 7, 8
Math	April 28, 29	6, 7, 8
Science	April 30, May 1	8

As part of Pennsylvania's transition to the new STEELS standards (Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability), the 2025 Middle School PSSA Science assessment will be administered in grade 8. However, this spring's Science assessment will be administered as a census field test. Individual student data and reports will not include Science results this spring. The data from the 2025 census field test will be used to produce the 2026 Science PSSA that will be fully aligned to the STEELS standards.

In addition to this letter, important information pertaining to electronic devices, a FAQ sheet for parents/guardians, Calculator Policy, and a Code of Conduct for Test Takers is available to review from our school's webpage. Please review this information with your child prior to the testing window.

Please refrain from scheduling any appointments during our testing window. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. We are committed to supporting our RVMS students and their families in every way we can. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Westendorf or Ms. Buffone with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mr. Eric Westendorf
Middle School Principal
westendorf.e@rvsdpa.org

Ms. Tammy Buffone
Middle School Counselor
buffone.t@rvsdpa.org