

CHARLEROI AREA ELEMENTARY COUNSELING OFFICE

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is that time of year again to begin preparation for the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA). The standardized test schedule for all students, including COLA students, is as follows:

English Language Arts Assessment - April 21, 22nd and 24th

Math Assessment - April 28th and April 29th

Science Assessment - April 30th

This year's assessments will all be online using the student's chromebook. To ensure that chromebooks are working properly and charged, all students will leave their chromebooks and chargers at school from **April 17th-30th**.

This is a very important time in your child's educational journey, and we hope you can help stress this importance to them. We kindly ask that you avoid scheduling appointments or trips during this critical period.

The following are a few suggestions that can help your student do their best on the tests:

- Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep each night.
- Make sure he/she eats breakfast each morning.
- Have your student dress in layers.
- Remind them not to be too anxious. Reassure them that they have learned everything they need to know and to just do their best.
- Students are **NOT** permitted to bring **ANY** electronic devices, especially those with a camera into the testing rooms during the testing days. If a student brings an unauthorized device into the testing room, a report will have to be filed with the state and disciplinary action may take place. Please read the **PA Department of Education Parent/Guardian** letter that is attached to this letter to familiarize yourself and your student.
- Please review the **Code of Conduct for Test Takers** letter and the **PA Calculator Policy** letter that are attached.
- Review test-taking strategies with them:
 - Read directions carefully.
 - If he/she does not know the answer to a question, remind them to skip it and move on (they can always come back to it later before turning in their test).
 - Remind your student to check their answers carefully and to take their time.

Lastly, students who come to school and try their best will be rewarded!

Thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring your child's success,