



River Valley School District

Saltsburg Elementary

199 Trojan Lane

Saltsburg, PA 15681

(724) 639-3556

Fax: (724) 639-9322

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The annual Pennsylvania System School Assessment is a standards-based assessment which provides students, parents, educators, and citizens with an understanding of student and school performance related to the attainment of proficiency of the academic standards. These standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology identify what a student should know and be able to do at varying grade levels.

Every Pennsylvania student in grades 3 through 8 is assessed in English Language Arts and Math. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 5 and 8 is assessed in Science. Each PSSA assessment is made up of multiple-choice, selected response, and constructed response items and is written to align with Pennsylvania's Academic Standards for the specific subject being assessed.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has established windows during which the PSSA testing will occur. Specifically, Saltsburg Elementary students will be participating in the state assessments as outlined below:

Test	Test Dates	Grade Levels
English Language Arts (ELA)	April 21, 22 & 23, 2026	Grades 3, 4 & 5
Math	April 27 & 28, 2026	Grades 3, 4 & 5
Science	April 29 & 30, 2026	Grade 5

Individual student scores, provided only to their respective schools, can be used to assist teachers in identifying students who may be in need of additional educational opportunities. School scores provide information to schools and districts for curriculum and instruction improvement discussions and planning. The individual student reports for all assessments will be sent to the school district in the fall for distribution to parents.

More information about the PSSA tests is available on our school website, including this letter, details on electronic devices and the Code of Conduct for Test Takers. Please review this information with your child before testing begins.

You can access this information at <https://ses.rivervalleyisd.org>. If you have any questions about the assessment process, please feel free to contact me or Mrs. Monko.

Sincerely,

Lori P. Baker

Saltsburg Elementary School Counselor

Use of Electronic Devices During PSSA or Keystone Exam Testing

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 your child 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 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 during the administration of the test, the school's discipline policy will be followed and the student's test will not be scored.

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.
- Keep your eyes on your own test.
- Answer each test item.
- Check that you have completed all the test items before you submit 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, cameras, smartphones, smartwatches, earbuds, smart glasses, etc.) in your possession during the test. Note, you may have approved calculators, if applicable, during the test.
- Share a calculator with others.
- Use a calculator when not permitted.
- 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.