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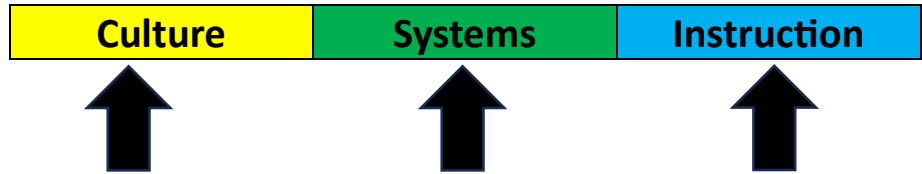
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Sunnyside PSCC Meeting Minutes



March PSCC Meeting
04/28/26 @ 5:00pm

Topic: Overview of the PSSA and Upcoming Events

Welcome & Agenda Overview

Math*ELA*Science 2026 PSSA Overview

Math PSSA – Tested April 20th & April 21st - The Math PSSA evaluates student proficiency in Pennsylvania Core Standards in Mathematics for grades 3–8. It focuses on numbers/operations, algebraic concepts, geometry, and data analysis/probability using multiple-choice and open-ended questions that require showing work.

ELA PSSA – April 28th, 29th and 30th -The ELA PSSA evaluates student proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening based on Pennsylvania Core Standards for grades 3-8. It measures comprehension of literary and informational texts, writing quality, and language skills through multiple-choice, evidence-based responses, short answer response (3rd grade) and text-dependent analysis (grades 4-8).

Science PSSA – Grades 5 & 8 – May 1st & May 4th - The Science PSSA evaluates student proficiency in science, technology, engineering, and environmental standards for grades 5 and 8 (formerly 4 and 8). It measures knowledge of concepts, procedures, and critical thinking through four core areas: Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Earth/Space Sciences, and Technology/Engineering.

Supporting Your Child at Home

In math, we continue to focus on problem-solving and understanding concepts, not just memorizing steps.

Students are learning to:

Solve multi-step problems

Use different strategies

Explain how they arrived at an answer

Math today may look different than when we were in school, and that's intentional—we want students to truly understand what they're doing.

How you can help at home:

Ask, 'How did you figure that out?'

Encourage them to explain their thinking

Use everyday situations like shopping or cooking to talk about math

In ELA, we've been focusing on building strong reading comprehension and writing skills.

Students are working on:

Understanding what they read at a deeper level

Finding evidence in the text to support their answers

Writing clear responses that explain their thinking

One thing you might notice at home is that students are being asked not just *what* happened in a story, but *why*—and to prove it using the text.

How you can help at home:

Ask your child to tell you about what they are reading

Have them explain their thinking, not just summarize

Encourage regular reading, even for short periods of time

In science, students have been doing a great job engaging with hands-on learning and exploring new concepts.

We focus on:

Asking questions

Making observations

Explaining ideas using evidence

Science is a great place for students to build curiosity and critical thinking skills.

How you can help at home:

Encourage your child to ask questions about the world around them

Talk about everyday observations—weather, nature, simple experiments. Let them explain what they are learning in their own words.

PSSA Online Shift

Wins:

Many students are comfortable with technology, so navigating the test felt natural for them.

Built-in tools (like highlighting, eliminating answer choices, and using digital math tools) can support student thinking.

Faster submission process and fewer issues with incomplete sections.

Prepares students for the increasing use of technology in learning and future testing.

Challenges:

Some students found it harder to read and stay focused on a screen for long periods of time.

Typing written responses can be slower or more frustrating than writing by hand.

Navigating between questions or using multiple tools at once can be tricky for some students.

Technical issues (like logging in or minor glitches) can add stress, even when quickly resolved.

Overall:

Students are continuing to adjust, and with more exposure and practice; comfort and confidence with online testing will continue to grow.

Looking Ahead – The Final Stretch

As we move into the final stretch of the school year, students can sometimes feel a little tired—especially after testing.

We’re continuing to keep learning engaging while also reinforcing important skills in all subject areas. There is still a lot of growth that can happen between now and the end of the year.

Our goal is to help students finish strong and feel confident moving into the next grade.

Year End Important Dates

May 8th – Soccer Field Revealing - Grades 2nd - 5th – 12:30-2:30pm

May 14th – Disney Musical Performance – Evening Performance
6:30pm – Doors open at 6:00pm

May 15th – PPS’s 28th Annual Take a Father to School Day

May 19th – No School

May 20th – Musical Student Showcase

May 22nd – PTO Garden Party (moms) & 5th Grade Science Fair

May 29th – Middle School Science Fair

June 5th – Fun Day

June 9th – PreK Celebration & Kindergarten Field Trip

June 10th – Kindergarten End of Year Celebration

June 12th - 8th Grade Promotion

More dates will be added as the year progresses...

Questions, Comments, Concerns

We are Pittsburgh Sunnyside.....
where intellectual curiosity is ignited, and we are on
F.I.R.E. for learning!!!