

# SOUTHERN LEHIGH

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

April 9, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As Spring approaches, so do the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests. Please note that all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the English Language Arts (ELA) PSSA on **April 23rd, 30th and May 7th (mornings only; 11:00 am dismissal)** and the Math PSSA on **May 14th (full day.)** Additionally, all 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the Science PSSA on **May 21st (full day.)** Remote learning students will need to report for PSSA testing. All make ups will be scheduled on May 21st, 28th, and June 4th and 7th. Notification will be sent to those students who need to report for make up testing. Please try to avoid any appointments or absences during these days. Missing these days will result in students being required to report additional Fridays during the spring for make ups. Bussing will be provided for students who will be taking the assessments. If a student will not be taking the assessment, they will remain home on the assessment Friday and will continue to complete asynchronous work.

Please be aware that according to the Department of Education regulations all cell phones, E-Readers (Nooks/Kindles), iPods, Smart Watches and any other electronic device are prohibited during test administration. Please read the attached letter from the Department of Education on this policy. We encourage that all cell phones and electronic devices be left at home during these testing days.

Chapter 4 of Title 22 of the PA. Code provides the right for any parent/guardian to excuse their child from the state assessment if, upon inspection of the testing materials, the parent/guardian finds the assessment to be in conflict with their religious beliefs. This is the only basis for a parent/guardian to excuse his or her child from the statewide assessments. Please visit the District website ([www.slsd.org](http://www.slsd.org)) and navigate to "Teaching and Learning > Curriculum > [State Testing Opt Out](#)" for more information.

Additionally, please remember to have your child get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast and try their best during these testing days. You are welcome to send in a nutritious snack and water for your child to eat following the testing sessions. Please refer to the *Information for Parents or Guardians* document included with this mailing to answer frequently asked questions or feel free to contact the Middle School if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

Edward J. Donahue, PhD  
SLMS Principal

Anne V. Cooper  
SLMS School Counselor