



WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Goshen Elementary School

Dennis M. Brown, Principal

January 25, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Grades 3, 4, and 5,

The annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), **Reading and Mathematics** Assessments will be administered to all students in Elementary School during the testing window, **April 8-19**. While this is only one measure of your student's achievement, these assessments are important ones. Individual results of the Elementary School PSSAs are important and School and District results are published in the newspaper and reflect the overall performance of the West Chester Area School District.

All students in grades 3-8 must take either the PSSA or the PASA. The only exemption given by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is for religious reasons. In order to obtain a religious exemption for Reading and Math, parents must contact the building principal by **March 11, 2013** and make arrangements with the principal to review the test. Once they have reviewed the test, they must write a letter to the district's superintendent, Dr. Jim Scanlon, by **April 3rd**, requesting the religious exemption for the 2013 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade PSSA Reading and Mathematics Assessment. The elementary schools also take the PSSA in Science and the PSSA in Writing.

This year PDE is introducing the Standalone Writing Field Test for Grades 3-5. The window for this assessment is February 4-13, 2013. If you choose not to have your child participate in this Standalone Writing Field Test, please notify the superintendent by **January 30th**.

Pennsylvania law currently mandates the awarding of Pennsylvania Proficiency Certificates depending upon scores earned on state standardized assessments. Pennsylvania law mandates that all students who graduate must be proficient in mathematics, reading, and writing, with districts determining proficiency through credits, grades, courses, and assessments aligned with Pennsylvania Academic Standards. Beginning with the class of 2017, students must demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra 1, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams in order to graduate.

The Elementary School PSSA testing window is as follows:

Test	Window	Review of Test	Notify Superintendent
Standalone Writing FT	Feb. 4-13	January 28	January 30
Reading & Math	April 8-19	March 11	April 3
Writing, 5	March 11-15	February 27	March 7
Science, 4	April 22-26	April 8	April 18

The FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) for general PSSA information can be found on the district's website. If you have any additional questions, please contact Patricia Verbovszky, Supervisor of the English Language Learner Program, Assessment, Gifted K-8 at 484-266-1196, or me.

Sincerely,

Dennis Brown