

March 21, 2024

Dear New Eagle Parents and Guardians,

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests in English/Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics and Science will be administered the weeks of April 22 and April 29, 2024. The state designed these tests as measures to determine student proficiency according to state standards. Performance on the PSSAs is an important measure in a student's overall success. Historically, New Eagle Elementary School students have performed very well on these assessments, and we are confident that this tradition of excellence will continue.

For federal accountability, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) calculates the school participation rates. If the participation rate falls below 95% in a tested subject, then each subsequent non-tested student will be designated as non-proficient in the school proficiency calculation. In addition, the school needs to develop an improvement plan to address the participation rate. Since some of our schools fell below the required 95% participation rate last school year, an improvement plan had to be submitted to the state. The plan includes communicating this information to you, as well as reinforcing that you may contact me with any questions you have about the testing.

For your convenience, the New Eagle Elementary School's PSSA testing schedule is detailed at the bottom of this letter. **The ELA PSSA will be administered to students in grades 3-4 from April 24-26.** The testing window issued by the state for both Math and Science testing falls within the week of April 29. Therefore, **the Math PSSA will be administered to students in grades 3-4 on April 30 and May 1, and the Science PSSA will be administered to students in grade 4 on May 2 and 3.** Teachers will inform students of testing locations and times as the dates draw nearer. Although specific times have been scheduled for test completion, students may request additional time in order to complete the test, and we will ensure they have the time they need.

Please help your child prepare to perform at their best. Attendance at school, adequate sleep, and eating a healthy breakfast are important. Being on time for school is also very important as some test sessions are scheduled at the beginning of the day.

The state provides for the right of any parent/guardian to excuse their child from PSSA testing if, upon inspection of the testing materials, the assessment conflicts with their religious beliefs. The state has emphasized that the opt-out request is only in effect for religious reasons and not moral or ethical reasons. Parents/guardians who wish to review the assessment materials may do so by contacting me and scheduling a meeting time. We are scheduled to receive the testing materials from the state on April 8. Appointment times will be available the week of April 8. We would like to conclude meetings to review the materials by April 16 so testing groups and arrangements can be finalized. We will provide curriculum-related activities for students who do not participate in PSSA testing.

For further information regarding the PSSA, please find the attached documents from the Pennsylvania Department of Education: "Information for Parents and Guardians" and a letter detailing the consequences should any students possess a prohibited electronic device such as a cell phone, tablet, and/or smartwatch during testing. If you have any questions related to the testing schedule or process, please call me at 610-240-1551. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Andy Phillips, Principal
New Eagle Elementary School
PhillipsAndy@tesd.net, (610) 240 - 1550

New Eagle Elementary School
2024 PSSA Testing Schedule

Third Grade

April 24 – ELA	11:15 a.m.
April 25 – ELA	11:15 a.m.
April 26 – ELA	11:15 a.m.

April 30 – Math	11:15 a.m.
May 1 – Math	11:15 a.m.

Fourth Grade

April 24 – ELA	9:30 a.m.
April 25 – ELA	9:30 a.m.
April 26 – ELA	9:30 a.m.

April 30 – Math	9:30 a.m.
May 1 – Math	9:30 a.m.

May 2 – Science	9:30 a.m.
May 3 – Science	9:30 a.m.