



Valley Forge Middle School

105 West Walker Road | Wayne, PA 19087 | 610-240-1300



March 21, 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian,

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, VF Middle 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, VF Middle School's PSSA testing schedule is detailed at the bottom of this letter. **The ELA PSSA will be administered to students in grades 5-8 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 5-8 on April 30 and May 1, and the Science PSSA will be administered to students in grade 8 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. In addition, we ask that your child bring to school at least two sharpened #2 pencils and a calculator, as calculators will be permitted for certain sections of the Math PSSA. It would also be helpful if you remind your child to take the time to check their answers and to write a rough copy before completing responses to open-ended questions.

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 is in conflict 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 Carol Abele at abelec@tesd.net and scheduling a meeting time. We are scheduled to receive the testing materials from the state the week of April 8. Appointment times will be available April 10, 11, 12, and 15-18. We would like to conclude meetings to review the materials by April 18 so testing arrangements can be finalized. Schools are required to provide alternate learning 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 610-240-1313. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ellen Turk
Assistant Principal
turke@tesd.net

PSSA Testing Schedule VFMS 2024

ELA (All Grades)

Wednesday, April 24 Section 1- ELA
8:45 – 11:15

Thursday, April 25 Section 2- ELA
8:45 – 11:15

Friday, April 26 Section 3- ELA
8:45 – 11:15

Math (All grades)

Tuesday, April 30 Section 1- Math
8:45 – 11:15

Wednesday, May 1 Section 2- Math
8:45 – 11:15

Science (Grade 8 only)

Thursday, May 2 Section 1- Science
9:20 – 11:00

Friday, May 3 Section 2- Science
9:20 – 11:00

Opportunities for make-up testing for all PSSA sections will be provided April 29 through May 10 at times when regularly scheduled PSSA testing sessions are not taking place.

[FAQs for Parents PSSA Spring 2024](#)
[2024 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Handbook for Assessment Coordinators \(pa.gov\)](#)