



CARBONDALE AREA JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians :

As you may already know, the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) Tests are rapidly approaching and we have begun our intense preparations. The PSSA is a state assessment designed to provide districts, students, parents, and the community with information regarding student learning and achievement. This year's PSSA testing window for 7th and 8th grade is as follows:

English Language Arts	April 15 th , 16 th , and 17 th	8:25 AM – 11:23 AM
Math	April 24 th and 25 th	8:25 AM – 11:23 AM
Science (8 th Grade Only)	April 29 th and 30 th	8:25 AM – 10:38 AM

We have been working diligently with our students, not only in Reading, English, and Math, but in all subject areas to be prepared for testing and are confident that our students will do their best because of our emphasis on the PA Common Core Standards. To promote a positive attitude and further motivate our students about the tests, we are treating them to our Annual PSSA Pep Rally on Thursday, April 11th. The Pep Rally will feature our band and cheerleaders as well as engaging activities and a PSSA video for our students. The PSSA t-shirts that were purchased this year can be worn on Pep Rally day with jeans. Additionally, students completed a motivational poster in relation to our PSSA theme, "On Our Quest to be the Best". These posters are featured in the Pep Rally video, and on display throughout the Junior High hallway.

Please assist us by encouraging your child/ren to do their very BEST each day as they come to school. We are suggesting that each student get at least eight hours of sleep each night before testing and consume a balanced diet throughout the testing window. As usual, breakfast will be provided to students during the testing period. We would appreciate if you refrain from making appointments for your child that will conflict with testing. If for any reason your child needs to be dismissed from school early, please make every effort for it to be after testing has been completed for the day. Also, please inform the Guidance Department of any unavoidable early dismissals so any necessary testing accommodations can be made. Finally, please show a positive attitude toward the testing with your child/ren and encourage your child/ren to answer all questions, especially those requiring short written answers.

Working together, we are all hoping to make a difference by increasing the performance levels of our children not only during the PSSAs, but throughout the year. Students do their best when we expect the best from them. We have confidence in every one of our students and, as always, appreciate your encouragement and concern.

Sincerely,

7th & 8th Grade Faculty and Staff

