



Principal's Page



MARCH 2019

Mrs. Heather Nuneviller, Principal

Mr. Jerry Rogers, 5th Grade Principal
Dr. Jen Rinehimer, 6th Grade Principal

Dr. Kathie Kotch, 7th Grade Principal

PSSA Testing Schedule Announced

Again this year, all students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 in all Pennsylvania school districts will take the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) ELA and Mathematics Assessments. The assessments are designed to provide information about the quality of our school programs, the progress of our students, and data for curricular and instructional planning purposes.

The entire ELA and Mathematics Assessments take approximately six to seven hours to complete and will be administered **April 15, 16, and 24, 2018** for ELA and **April 29-April 30** for Math. The assessments consist of both multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions requiring written responses. The results of the assessments will be reported to us and forwarded to you when they are received from the state.

All students in Pennsylvania in grades 4 and 8 are also required to take the PSSA Science Assessment scheduled for **April 29** through **May 3, 2019**. This test will take approximately two to four hours to complete and consists of open-ended writing prompts and multiple choice items.

This test will have an impact on future course programming for your child. In all grades 5-8, students who score at the "basic" or "below basic" levels of proficiency in mathematics and/or ELA portions on the PSSA test will receive additional academic assistance. In grade 7, the ELA support will be in lieu of a World Language class. By offering academic support for those students experiencing difficulty in mathematics and/or reading, we hope to provide students with the necessary support and assistance which will lead to a more successful academic school experience in the middle school.

Please be sure to encourage your child to do his or her very best on all of these assessments. It is very important that your child attends school and arrives on time daily to fully participate in the test sessions.

The tests will be administered the first two hours of school. Please be mindful of the testing schedule and avoid scheduling any appointments or trips during the testing window. As always, a good night's sleep and healthy breakfast will help to ensure that your child will perform up to his or her ability.

Reading Olympics

Students who are members of the 5/6 and 7/8 Reading Olympics teams will be participating in competitions this month. Sixth grade will compete in the Middle School competition being held at Pope John Paul High School on March 11th. Fifth grade will compete in the Elementary competition being held March 26th at Perkiomen Valley West Middle School. The 7th/8th grade Reading Olympics competition will be held on March 11th at Pope John Paul High School. This competition gives students a chance to show their knowledge of the books on this year's list. The list contains 46 books and most team members read at least 10. That's a lot of reading! Our teams will compete with teams from around the country in an attempt to win the coveted blue ribbon. We wish all of our teams good luck!



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 3/5-6 | 7th Grade Math Placement Testing for Algebra 8 |
| 3/11 | 6th and 7th Reading Olympics |
| 3/12-13 | 6th Grade Math Placement Testing for Algebra 7 |
| 3/15 | 7th Grade Dental Exams |
| 3/26 | 5th Grade Reading Olympics |
| 4/4 | End of 3rd Marking Period (tentative) |

Updated Security Measures



DID YOU KNOW??????

- You may apply for Free or Reduced Meal benefits at any time throughout the school year?
- Studies have suggested a strong link between child nutrition and learning in school? This supports the importance of the availability of school meal programs in improving the educational performance of our children.
- Spring-Ford offers healthy meals every school day? Children from families with incomes at or below 130% of the poverty level, children from families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needs Families (TANF) and children in families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are eligible for free lunches. Children in families whose income is between 130% and 185% of the poverty level are eligible for reduced price lunches.
- The Spring-Ford Area School District Food Services Department understands that some families are facing financial difficulties? Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to submit Free and Reduced lunch application forms annually as well as any time during the year when their household information or income changes. While we strongly encourage families to apply for the Free and Reduced meal benefits, the final application responsibility lies with the parents/guardians.
- The application process is easy and you can apply online? Pennsylvania's COMPASS website: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/CMHOM.aspx>
- You also have the option of submitting the application form directly to the District's Food Services Department? Click [HERE](#) for the application form.

Monthly Health Tip: Nutrition



Focus on Healthy Food Choices - Choose the GO, SLOW, and WHOA foods:

GO FOODS – are the lowest in fats and added sugar. They are nutrient dense with a better source of vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients important to health. Examples of GO foods are fruits, vegetables, whole grains, fat-free and low-fat milk products, lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, egg whites, or egg substitute.

SLOW FOODS - are higher in fat, added sugar, and calories. SLOW foods include vegetables with added fat, white refined bread flour, low-fat mayonnaise, 2% low fat milk products, peanut butter, pizza, baked chips, and mac and cheese. Have slow foods sometimes.

WHOA FOODS – are the highest in fat and sugar. They are calorie dense foods and low in vitamins, minerals, and other needed nutrients. Have WHOA foods once in a while, and when you do have them, have small portions. Examples of WHOA foods are whole-milk products, fried foods, bakery sweets, candy, soda, chips, sugary cereals, and creamy salad dressings.

Dropping Off Forgotten Items

When dropping off forgotten items for students, please place on the table in the vestibule of the Main Entrance. Pen and paper are provided for labeling.

Spring Harvest

Unfortunately, due to weather conditions, the annual Multicultural Thanksgiving had to be cancelled. Instead, we are hosting a Spring Harvest on Friday, April 12. It's the same concept as was the Multicultural Thanksgiving, sign up to bring a dish native to your culture, bring it with you on 4/12 and share with other parents, classmates and faculty. More information to follow.





Principal's Page



March 2019

LETTER FROM MR. ROGERS

One of the recent messages I delivered to our fifth graders at our team assemblies was that of personal success. I posed a question to each group of over 200 students and asked them, "Are YOU being successful?" I mentioned to them that this question was not meant to place any additional pressure on them, but meant to be a reflection of whether or not they are putting forth their best effort and getting the most out of their time here in fifth grade.

Some of the additional questions attached to this one were related to homework, behavior and peer interactions. Many of the issues fifth graders experience are related to these three areas. During a transition year such as this one, questions can raise in a student's mind about how they fit in among their peers and how they perform in the classroom in relation to the rest of their class. I challenged our students to take stock in their personal performance thus far in the year and to reach out to those here to help them if they are having difficulties in any of the areas I mentioned.

As we head into the Spring in just a few short weeks, I will continue to reiterate to our students that they should be focused on academics and responsibility. The Spring also brings with it many fun activities including our field trip. I have communicated to the students that the field trip is a privilege and can be taken away if behavior and/or academics are not up to the standard of expectations that we have set throughout the year. Most of our students are right on track in these areas, but it never hurts to have a reminder.



Parents who would like to be chaperones, please be reminded that we are only able to bring two parent chaperones per class. We hope you understand that due to our numbers, this is the highest number of parents we can possibly take. If you have any questions moving forward, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support!!

Lessons Learned

ELA- I have had the privilege of sitting in on some of the ELA lessons that have been going on in recent weeks. I have seen the use of stations, music, group work, story writing and journaling to bring alive our curriculum to the fifth grade students. The level of engagement and participation has been exemplary.

Math- One of the more difficult tasks that we expect of our students in our curriculum is mastering fractions. I have seen many lessons over the past few weeks that teach the students how to develop a mastery of this topic. Through sorting activities, the use of technology and high-level instruction, our staff has been able to help students understand the concept of a fraction being a part of a whole. Students have also been tasked with ordering fractions according to their value.

Fractions			
$\frac{1}{1}$		100% 1	One Whole
$\frac{1}{2}$		50% 0.50	One Half
$\frac{1}{3}$		33.3% 0.333	One Third
$\frac{1}{4}$		25% 0.25	One Quarter
$\frac{1}{5}$		20% 0.20	One Fifth
$\frac{1}{6}$		16.6% 0.166	One Sixth
$\frac{1}{8}$		12.5% 0.125	One Eighth
$\frac{1}{10}$		10% 0.10	One Tenth
$\frac{1}{12}$		8.33% 0.0833	One Twelfth

Guidance Check-In

Our guidance counselors, Mrs. O'Drain and Mrs. Noecker, have been working hard over the past few weeks ensuring they meet and have a discussion with every student in 5th grade. With over 630 students, this is quite an undertaking!

This is an effort to show outreach to the students population and to let the student population know that they have adults to turn to if they are having difficulty in any area of their school life. Thanks to Mrs. O'Drain and Mrs. Noecker for their efforts!!





Principal's Page



March 2019

Letter from Dr. Rinehimer

Hello 6th Grade Students, Parents, Guardians, and Families,

Welcome to 3rd quarter. The time is going fast and the weather seems to be having trouble deciding on a season. I wanted to use this month's principal page to give some information and reminders.

Our field trip this year is to Hershey Park. This is a fun trip that the students really enjoy. Similar to last year we will be traveling on three different days. Trailblazers will go May 28th, Pioneers will go May 29th and Settlers will go May 30th. We will be in need of chaperones and more information from teachers will be sent out at a later time. You should have received permission slips for students and the due date is February 26th. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Please feel free to reach out at any point if you have questions or concerns about your student.

Warmly,

Jennifer Rinehimer



Lessons Learned

MATH: We have been working on algebraic concepts including solving one step equations, inequalities and function machines. The next chapter is a first look at probability and statistics.

SCIENCE: Chapter 15 was water quality preservation, properties of water and we did a lab on surface tension.

ELA: We just finished Lesson 16 and are in the middle of completing Q3 Benchmark. We are starting informative essays next week

SCIENCE: We are studying the culture, religion, and government of Ancient Greece

Counselor's Corner

In February the counselors did a lesson called "Career Payday", where students got a taste of life beyond the classroom. Each student was given a salary and a list of bills to be paid. They worked through the process of budgeting and learned a lot about what parents and families need to do on a monthly basis. Ask your son or daughter about this very useful lesson.

In March the counselors are reviewing with each homeroom the previous lessons by having them work in a team to answer questions. The topics reviewed include: stress management, communication skills, values and peer relationships, study skills and work habits and career payday.



Principal's Page



March 2019

LETTER FROM DR. KOTCH

Dear Students, Parents and Families,

It is hard to believe that we are past the hundredth day of school and daylight savings time begins in a few weeks! As spring approaches, we are planning our field trip to Mermaid Lake, and a very busy end of the school year.

With the second semester well under way, I want to thank everyone for your continued support of our students, teachers, and school as we collectively strive to provide optimal opportunities for learning each and every day. It is my sincere hope that our students are prepped for success as they navigate through the second half of the school year. Plans are in the works for course selection options, as well as PSSA testing. Student attendance during these days helps students not only perform more consistently, but also ensure they are not missing valuable instruction time to make up the testing.

In closing, please encourage your child to finish the year strong. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warmest regards,

Kathie Kotch, Ed.D



Navigating Your Child's Screen Time

This video clip, *Screenagers Growing up in the Digital Age*, provides valuable information to assist parents with the topic of screen time and social media. Every day, your children make choices that not only affect them in that moment, but possibly their futures. Please takes a few minutes to view and discuss as a family.

<https://www.screenagersmovie.com/>

Students of the Month

On February 27th, we celebrated our Students of the Month for Science, along with Health and Physical Education. Each student was selected based upon their efforts, skill, and leadership in the classroom. We are proud of their accomplishments!



Celebrating Black History Month

Since February was Black History Month, our students engaged in a few activities to gain more insight into the lives of some notable individuals. Students worked on matching the photos with biographies of African Americans from all walks of life. There was also an opportunity to view some "moments in time" and document what the student might have done if he/she had been present. Thought-provoking and inspirational comments were shared by many!

