



Middle School Guidance

2015 P.S.S.A./Keystone Exam Testing Window

February 2015

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As the new year begins, schools across the Commonwealth begin to start focusing on the upcoming state assessments - the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment and the Keystone Exams. New this year will be the English Language Arts P.S.S.A. that replaces the Reading and Writing assessments.

Now, instead of taking two separate assessments, students will take one assessment. The E.L.A. Assessment window will be April 13, 2015, through April 17, 2015 for grades three through eight. The following week April 20, 2015, through April 24, 2015, students in grades three through eight will be administered the P.S.S.A. Mathematics assessment. Finally, the last week in the month of April, students in

grades four and eight will be administered the P.S.S.A. Science Assessment. The window for this assessment will be April 27, 2015, through May 1, 2015. If you are an eighth grade student at Berlin Middle School and you are enrolled in the Algebra 1 math class, you will be required to take the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam. The window for the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam will be from May 13, 2015, through May 20, 2015. Parents will be notified approximately three weeks prior to the state mandated assessments of the testing dates that Berlin Brothersvalley Middle School will be utilizing. In addition to the testing dates, parents will also receive information per-

taining to each assessment (frequently asked questions by parents). For more information about the state testing, you can visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website. Once there, search P.S.S.A., Keystone Exam, or assessments. If you have further questions, I would be more than happy to try and answer them for you.

Quote of the month

"Ambition without action is useless." - unknown



Happy Valentine's Day

Points of Interest:

- ✓ - Absent from school? Check out the teacher lesson plans by logging into PowerSchool parent portal.
- ✓ - Excuses are due the day students return to school. A grace period of three days is allowed before becoming illegal.
- ✓ - Bullying information can be found at: www.bbsd.com/Page/16088

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Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

February 2, 2015 - Groundhog Day.

February 14, 2015 - Happy Valentine's Day.

February 18, 2015 - Third nine-week mid-term.

March 8, 2015 - Daylight savings time begins.

March 20, 2015 - End of the third nine-week grading period.

April 3, 2015 - Good Friday.

April 5, 2015 - Happy Easter!

April 13, 2015 - April 17, 2015 - P.S.S.A. English Language Arts Assessment testing window.

April 20, 2015 - April 24,

2015 - P.S.S.A. Mathematics Assessment testing window.

April 27, 2015 - May 1, 2015 - P.S.S.A. Science Assessment testing window.

May 13, 2015 - May 20, 2015 - Keystone Exam (Algebra 1) testing window. Eighth grade Algebra 1 class only!

