

Middle School Guidance



2010 P.S.S.A. Testing Schedule

February 2009

Volume 6, Issue 7

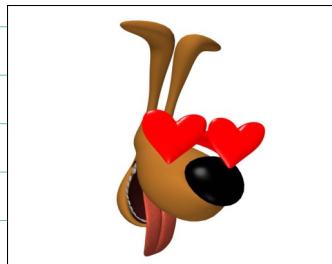
The Pennsylvania Department of Education has re-vamped the P.S.S.A. (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) testing window for the 2009 - 2010 school year. In previous years, school districts across the commonwealth were tested on writing in February, Mathematics and Reading in March and Science in April. School districts were notified of the testing schedule change in late August 2008. This change was to be implemented for the 2008 - 2009 school year. In mid-September, Secretary of Education, Dr. Gerald Zahorchak released a statement that the new testing schedule would be postponed until the 2009 - 2010 school year. The testing calendar for 2009 - 2010 will reflect the following changes: Mathematics and Reading along with the P.S.S.A. Modified Mathematics and Reading will begin testing the week of April 12 through April 16, 2010. The P.S.S.A. Writing window will open April 19 through April 23, 2010. The P.S.S.A. Science and the

P.S.S.A. Modified Science testing window will open April 26 through April 30, 2010. Make-ups for all P.S.S.A.'s and Modified P.S.S.A.'s will begin May 3 and continue through May 7, 2010. These changes to the state testing schedule will result in many changes and challenges for school districts. One of the big advantages to the new testing schedule is that schools will have more time to prepare students for the P.S.S.A. Another bonus not only for districts, but also learning support students is the recent development of the P.S.S.A.-Modified test. Secretary Zahorchak acknowledges that some special education students will never perform at grade level and P.D.E. (The Pennsylvania Department of Education) is moving forward will plans to develop a modified version of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. Currently, all but one percent of all students in grades three through eight and grade eleven are re-

quired to take the math, reading, writing and science assessments. This one percent, most of whom have severe cognitive disabilities, take a test called the Pennsylvania Alternative for School Assessment (P.A.S.A.). The plan is to widen to three percent the number of students who would not have to take the P.S.S.A. One percent would still take the P.A.S.A. and the remaining two percent would take the P.S.S.A.-modified.

Quote of the month:

"Some mountains are moved, one rock at time." (Unknown)



**Happy
Valentine's Day**

Points of Interest:

- ✓ - Absent from school? Check out the teacher lesson plans by logging into the Logic House 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: <http://www.bbsd.com/bullying>

Contact Mr. Smith

Phone # 267 -6931

E-mail -
msmith@bbsd.com

Webpage - <http://www.bbsd.com/ms/faculty/marksmith>



Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

February 9, 2009 through February 20, 2009 - P.S.S.A. Writing Assessment (Grades 5 and 8).

February 13, 2009 - "Cupid's Valentine's Crush" dance (6:30 - 9:00).

February 14, 2009 - Valentine's Day.

February 16, 2009 through February 25, 2009 - Middle School Dodge ball tournament.

February 20, 2009 through February 25, 2009 - Third Nine Week Grading Mid-Term.

March 16, 2009 through March 27, 2009 - P.S.S.A. Mathematics and Reading Assessment (Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8)

March 17, 2009 - Happy St. Patrick's Day.

March 20, 2009 - Shamrock Shimmy Dance (6:30 - 9:00)

March 26, 2009 - Camp Cadet presentation for eight grade. (12:15)

April 1, 2009 - Eighth grade Career Fair at Seven Springs Mountain Resort.