

Middle School Guidance



Science P.S.S.A.

May 2008

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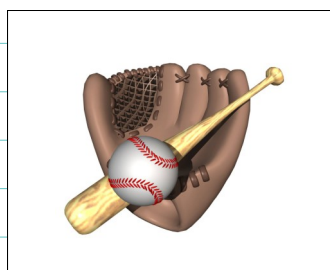
The science assessment is an operational component of the 2008 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (P.S.S.A.) in accordance with the federal *No Child Left Behind* (N.C.L.B.) Act of 2001. All public school students enrolled in grades 4, 8, and 11 are required to participate in the 2008 Science P.S.S.A.. Students and schools will receive reports for the assessment; however, science results will not be included in district and school A.Y.P. (Annual Yearly Progress) calculations. The science assessment should challenge all students with tasks that require inference, problem-solving, and concept identification. The assessment includes multiple-choice items, as well as, tasks that require students to write their own responses to items. Students' written re-

sponses to the open-ended (performance) tasks will be scored using item-specific scoring guidelines based on the P.S.S.A. General Description of Science Scoring Guidelines. The assessment window starts on April 28, 2008, and runs through May 9, 2008. The assessment will take approximately two to four hours to complete. Students in grades four and eight will complete two sections of items for the science assessment; grade eleven students will complete three sections. Each includes multiple-choice items, as well as, open-ended items. The science assessment addresses the four major reporting categories: The Nature of Science, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Earth and Space Sciences. The proportion of items devoted to each

reporting category varies within a grade level. Each reporting category includes certain Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content. For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education website at <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/>

Quote of the month

"Act as though it is impossible to fail." (unknown)



**Good Luck
Berlin
Mountaineers!**

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>

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Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

April 1, 2008 - April Fool's Day.

April 14, 2008 through April 18, 2008 - 4Sight Testing (Grades 5 - 8).

April 17, 2008 - Eighth Grade Career Fair at Seven Springs Mountain Resort.

April 28, 2008 - Middle of fourth nine week grading period.

April 28, 2008 through May 9, 2008 - P.S.S.A. Science Assessment for grades 4, 8 and 11.

May 11, 2008 - Happy Mother's Day. Thank you mom for everything!

May 9, 2008 - Middle School End-of-Year Dance (6:30 - 9:00)

May 22, 2008 - Middle School Awards Day Assembly (1:15 -

3:00)

May 26, 2008 - Memorial Day, No School.

May 29, 2008 - Elementary (a.m.) and Middle School (p.m.) carnival.

May 30, 2008 - End of the fourth nine week grading period. Last student day for the 2007 - 2008 school year.