

Oxford Area High School

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INFORMATION ON PSSA TEST DATES

February 13, 2012

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is to inform you that beginning in March the eleventh grade students will participate in the 2012 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) testing. Specific dates are as follows:

March 19th, 20th and 21st - Reading and Math Assessment
April 17th and 18th - Writing Assessment
April 23rd and 24th - Science Assessment.

Juniors who attend TCHS are to remain at Oxford Area High School on testing days.

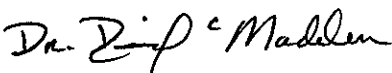
The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been administering assessments since the 1970's. The information obtained from the assessment serves as a valuable tool for planning future school programs, developing curriculum, in-service training of teachers and informing the public about student proficiency on the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. The assessments are important to your child and to Oxford Area High School. It is critical that each of our students approach the assessments with a desire to do their best. All eleventh grade students are required to take the PSSA unless the assessment is in conflict with their religious beliefs. Student results will be reported to you and will appear on student transcripts. Furthermore, colleges and employers are now looking at PSSA scores as a way of assessing students' abilities.

Each assessment will challenge all students with multiple choice questions and constructed response items. The assessments are scored on four performance levels: **Advanced, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic**. Students who have achieved Advanced or Proficient will receive a certificate upon graduation from Oxford. Those students who have not reached at least the proficient level will be **required** to retest in their senior year. Additionally, students who have not reached proficient levels will be assigned to a PSSA remediation class during the first semester of their senior year.

Parents may help their children prepare for the assessment by encouraging them to get plenty of sleep the night before and providing them with a nutritional breakfast on the morning of the assessment. Parents can reassure children that the assessment gives them an opportunity to demonstrate their learning and help teachers plan the best possible instruction for them. Please encourage your son or daughter to give his or her best effort on the coming assessments.

Please feel free to contact me at the school if you have any questions about the assessment or would like to review the assessment.

Sincerely,



Dr. David C. Madden
Principal