



March 21, 2019

Dear Wissahickon Charter School Parent/Guardian:

**Your child or children will participate in the PSSA assessment this year. Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions about the PSSA.**

**Which students take the assessments?**

Except for a very few students who meet specific criteria for participation in an alternate assessment, all students are included in the assessments as outlined below:

English and Language Arts (ELA) – Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

Mathematics – Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

Science – Grades 4 and 8

**When are the tests?**

ELA April 23-25	Math April 29-30	Science May 1-2
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**Are there any changes from other years?**

The content and testing length of the PSSA tests are unchanged from last year. At WCS, we will continue to have 12:45 dismissals on ELA and Math testing days.

**How long does the assessment take?**

Testing will last between one and two hours each morning. The test is not timed so students may take as long as they need to finish.

**How can I help my child prepare?**

- Make sure your child goes to bed early.
- Make sure your child gets a healthy breakfast each morning.
- Make sure your child gets positive encouragement at home.
- Make sure your child does his or her best on the test and takes it seriously.
- Make sure your child comes to school everyday and on time.
- **Middle School Parents: Make sure your child brings his or her own calculator. We do not have enough calculators on hand for every student to borrow one, so it's essential for students to bring their own.**

[wissahickoncharter.org](http://wissahickoncharter.org)

**Fernhill Campus**

Wissahickon Charter School  
4700 G Wissahickon Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
267.338.1020

**Awbury Campus**

Wissahickon Charter School  
815 E Washington Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19138  
267.774.4370



# Wissahickon

CHARTER SCHOOL

### **May parents see the assessments?**

Parents and guardians may review the assessments by making arrangements with the School Assessment Coordinator. Confidentiality agreements must be signed, and no copies of the assessments or notes about assessment items will be permitted to leave the school.

If after reviewing the test parents/guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious belief and wish their student (s) to be excused from the test, the parents/guardians must provide a written request that states the objection.

### **Are cell phones or other electronic devices allowed while testing?**

Absolutely not. Please review the PDE policy regarding cell phones and electronic devices at <http://wissahickoncharter.org/uploads/attachments/cjtk187ga0nlf8ifaj3fzpc0r-pde-cell-phone-policy-2019.pdf>. Please speak with your child and let him or her know that possession of a cell phone during the PSSA administration will result in certain consequences in addition to the student needing to retake the entire exam.

### **What if my child is absent?**

It is very important for your child to participate in the assessment. If your child is absent, they will miss class to make up any missed sections during the makeup window which is May 1-3.

### **What if I have more questions?**

Please contact the school at 267-338-1020 (Fernhill Campus) or 267-774-4370 (Awbury Campus).

More information on the assessments can also be found on our website at:

<http://wissahickoncharter.org/uploads/attachments/cjtk187h30nlw7tfaxo6xnl9v-pde-pssa-parent-letter-2019.pdf>

**Thank you for your support!**

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