

April 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Third and Fourth Grade Students:

The U.S. Department of Education issued new guidance regarding assessment administration for the 2020-2021 school year. The South Park School District will administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) during the dates listed below:

South Park Elementary Center PSSA Testing		
The assessment will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude when all students complete the assessment.		
April 26, 27, 28, 2021 (April 29 make-up)	English Language Arts	Grades 3, 4
May 3, 4, 2021 (May 5, 6 make-up)	Mathematics	Grades 3, 4
May 10, 11, 2021 (May 12, 13 make-up)	Science	Grade 4
*Make-ups will be given during the entire testing window which includes May 17, 19, and 20		

The administration of the PSSA this spring will provide the district with crucial data on student performance as we head into the summer and prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

All students in grades 3 and 4 will take the English Language Arts assessment that consists of three sections ranging from 50 to 80 minutes in length. All students in grades 3 and 4 will take the Mathematics assessment that consists of two sections ranging from 45 to 95 minutes in length. Science assessments will be given to all students in grade 4 and consist of two sections ranging from 50 to 80 minutes.

All students, whether they are enrolled in in-person learning or in the South Park Cyber Academy, are required to attend in-person on the scheduled testing dates.

If your child is enrolled in the South Park Cyber Academy, he/she will take the tests with his/her cyber academy classmates. Transportation will be the responsibility of the parents/guardians of cyber academy students. Cyber academy students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on testing days. Again, transportation will not be provided for cyber academy students.

In-person students will report at their regular time by car or by bus.

SPEC Report Times for Cyber Students			
Dates	Grades	Arrival Time	Anticipated Pickup Time
4/26-4/28	3-4	8:50 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
5/3-5/4	3-4	8:50 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
5/10 & 5/11	4	8:50 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
*Third grade cyber students will report to the Art room. Fourth grade cyber students will report to the Music room.			

Students can only be excluded (opt-out) from the PSSAs for religious reasons, which would require a written request to the Superintendent's office. The written request must be received by Friday, April 16, 2021 and you must also reply [using this online form](#) by Friday, April 16 so the school can account for any opt-out students. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the PSSA and to put forth their best effort. In-person students who opt-out of the PSSA may report at the regular arrival time by car or by bus but will be required to work silently in a designated area for the duration of the daily test sessions. More specific information regarding testing times will be provided by your child's principal in the upcoming weeks.

As mandated by the state, during assessments, students are prohibited from having cell phones, smartphones, and other electronic devices. These devices will be collected as students enter the testing site. If there is a breach with possession and/or use of an electronic device, disciplinary action will be taken.

If you have any further questions, please contact your child's principal and/or school counselor.