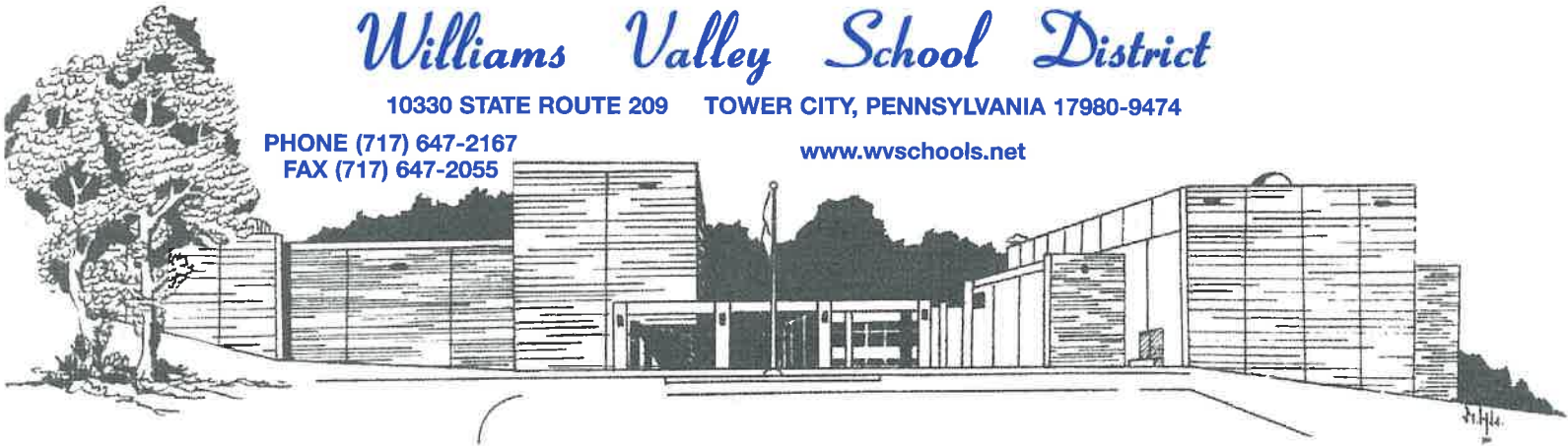


Williams Valley School District

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AMY M. TOMALAVAGE
Business Manager

DIANE R. BEST, Ed.D
Superintendent

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Federal Programs & Community Liaison

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires all school districts to administer the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) in English language arts, mathematics, and science. The dates of the testing window have been expanded into the fall by the PA Department of Education (PDE) to provide schools more flexibility regarding when to administer the assessment. The only choice any district can make is deciding not if, but *when* we will administer the test.

Like many neighboring districts, Williams Valley will administer these assessments in late spring. The primary reason for this decision is our strong desire to start the 2021-2022 school year off as typically as possible. Delaying these assessments to the fall would require us to complete the PSSA in September, and a fall assessment would also mean that students would take a second set of PSSAs in April/May of that same school year.

Williams Valley will be administering the 20-21 PSSAs during the dates listed below.

Assessment	Dates	Grades
English Language Arts	April 26, 27 & 29	Grades 3-8
Mathematics	May 3 & 4	Grades 3-8
Science	May 6	Grades 4 and 8
Make-ups	April 30 & May 10	

Chapter 4 of school code provides language and procedures for parents/guardians to opt-out of testing due to religious reasons. This process includes signing a confidentiality agreement, reviewing the assessment booklets, and signing an affidavit to the superintendent indicating your religious objection. Please contact your building principal to schedule this process.

Parents/Guardians also have the right of refusal to participate in this assessment process. This request must be provided to the building principal in writing (an email is sufficient) indicating the student's name, grade level and your refusal for them to participate in the assessment. Students who do not participate in the PSSA assessment will have a negative impact on the school's participation rate. Additional information can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education website.

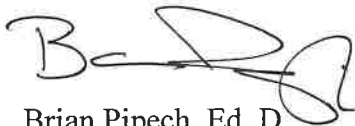
Additionally, please review these very important PDE policies posted on our website to fully understand the state-testing program:

- Information for Parents/Guardians (Q/A)
- Code of Conduct for Test Takers
- Use of cell phones/electronic devices
- Pennsylvania Calculator Policy

Synchronous and Asynchronous students will test at their respective buildings in assigned testing rooms.

- *Junior High Students* must report by 7:45 AM each of the testing days and be picked up at 11:00 AM. Remote or online testing is not available for the PSSAs. Students should be dropped off no later than 7:45 AM on testing days. Drop off will be at the main front entrance to the school. After testing, students should have a ride available at 11:00 AM for pick-up at the same location.
- *Elementary Students* must report by 8:30 AM each of the testing days and be picked up at 12:00 PM. Remote or online testing is not available for the PSSAs. Students should be dropped off no later than 8:30 AM on testing days. Drop off will be at the main front entrance to the school. After testing, students should have a ride available at 12:00 PM for pick-up at the same location.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Pipech". The signature is stylized with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke.

Brian Pipech, Ed. D
Federal Programs Coordinator