March 12, 2018

To: The Parents/Guardians of all Cumberland Valley Students in Grades 3 – 8.

The Pennsylvania State Board of Education state assessment program that will take place in all school districts in the Commonwealth again this school year. Students will be tested during the following windows:

Grades 3 – 8
English Language Arts Assessment, April 9-13, 2018

Grades 3 – 8
Math Assessment, April 16-20, 2018

Grades 4 & 8
Science Assessment, April 23-27, 2018

Please do NOT schedule Educational Trips during testing windows. They cannot be approved.

Included with this memo is a parent information flier that addresses questions you might have about the PSSA testing program. Please read the flier carefully. If you need further information about the assessments, feel free to contact your child's building principal.

School entities are required to have policies to ensure that parents or guardians have the right to review a state assessment to determine whether the content of the assessment conflicts with their religious belief. Conflict with religious belief is the **only reason** allowable under regulation that parents or guardians may see the assessment. Parents or guardians seeking to make this determination should contact their child's school to set up an appointment to review the assessment after Monday, March 19, 2018.

If, after reviewing the assessment, parents or guardians find the assessment to be in conflict with their religious belief and wish their student(s) to be excused from the assessment, the right of the parents or guardians will not be denied upon written request submitted no later than 3:00 on Friday, April 6, 2018 to Dr. Frederick Withum, District Superintendent.

Cumberland Valley takes a great deal of pride in our exemplary PSSA performance. **Please discuss the importance of these assessments with your student and encourage his/her best efforts.** If at all possible, please refrain from scheduling appointments during the testing period. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

PSSA Testing and Electronic Devices

As we do every year, our elementary program is preparing to comply with all of the protocols for administration of PSSA testing in grades 3-5. In order to avoid potential conflicts for you and/or your child, we are asking that elementary children DO NOT bring any **electronic devices** to school during our building's testing dates: April 9 through April 27, 2018.

We are making this request due to guidelines received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. In part, guidelines indicate:

> *"In order to ensure reliable test results and to avoid the cost of replacing test items, the Department of Education requires schools to set rules and take certain steps to protect test materials. One step or rule required in all schools is that electronic devices are not permitted at test sites. Electronic devices include cell phones, smartphones, E-readers, Nooks, Kindles, iPads, iPods, tablets, camera-ready devices, and any other electronic device which can be used to photograph or duplicate test materials, access the internet and/or communicate with others during the administration of the PSSA …"*

We understand that you may have a need for your child to have access to a telephone. Please know and assure your child that he/she may use telephones in the school office. Should you have an extenuating circumstance regarding your child's electronic device, please feel free to contact your child's Principal.

Elementary School	**Principal**	**Phone Number**
Green Ridge	Amy Lena	717.506.6700
Hampden	Connie Henry	717.506.5701
Middlesex	Stephanie Eldridge	717.506.4700
Monroe	Megan Ward	717.506.8700
Shaull	Deana Raymer	717.506.9700
Silver Spring	Anthony Parks	717.506.3701
Sporting Hill	Dayl Lynn Shaddock	717.506.7700