



Palm Pointe Educational Research School @ Tradition

10680 Academic Way, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34987

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A Visionary Partnership between Florida Atlantic University and Saint Lucie Public Schools

Dear Parent/Guardian,

March 2021

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will take the computer-based Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) **Grade 8 ELA Writing** assessment on April 7. Your child will take the paper-based **NGSSS Science** test on May 3. Your child will take the computer-based **Grade 8 ELA Reading** computer-based assessment on May 17 and 18; and the **Grade 8 Math** on May 19 and 20.

Per the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), no remote administrations are available for any statewide summative assessments.

The **Grade 8 Writing** test has been scheduled for April 7. The **Grade 8 Writing** test is a one-day 120-minute session test. The **Grade 8 NGSSS Science** test is a one-day 160-minute test. Approximate test time is from 10:30 to 2:00. The **Grade 8 Math** test on May 19 and 20 is a two-day, 180-minute test; Day 1 is a 60 minutes test, and Day 2 is a 120 minute test. Approximate test time is from 10:30 to 1:30. The **Grade 8 ELA Reading** test has been scheduled for May 17 and 18. This test is a two-day, 80-minute session test. Approximate test time is from 10:30 to 12:00 noon.

The health and safety of all our students is a top priority. Palm Pointe has undergone careful planning to ensure your child can safely test while on campus. So that safe social distancing can be maintained, students will enter the building through designated doorways. Your child will be in testing locations that have been sanitized and cleaned before their arrival. Your child will not be interacting with Traditional school students. Adherence to the St. Lucie County Safe Return to School Plan will be followed.

In order to streamline the arrival and check in process, **please drop off your child in the bus loading zone near bus Pole 6 no earlier than 10:00, and no later than 10:15.** Watch for identifying signs. You must stay in your car as you drop off your child. You will see adults at tables ready to confirm your child's identity and complete the Daily Classroom Screening for Students. **Face masks must be worn and in place before exiting the vehicle.** Parents are not allowed to wait on campus for their child to complete the test.

Students may bring water and their own hand sanitizer. Provided hand sanitizer will be also be available. Students will turn off cell phones and Smart Watches and these items cannot be with the students as they test. Your child will tag their own device for identification and the device will be placed away from the student across the room in a designated secure area of the same room in which they are testing. After your child completes their test, they will have cell phones returned to them, so they may confirm your pick-up.

Plan to pick up your child in the Gr. 1-8 car line at the designated time. You must stay in your car as you wait for your child to be dismissed from the testing room.

If your child does not feel well on the day of testing and does not participate on the above date(s), you will be notified of your child's scheduled make-up day(s) and times, as well as details regarding arrival and pick-up. School-appropriate attire is required – collared shirts are not required for this day. Your student may bring their own headphones or earbuds that are required for test taking. For students not bringing their own headphones or earbuds, one will be provided.

For information regarding session lengths for Spring 2021 assessments, please see the [2020–2021 Florida Statewide Grade-Level Assessments Fact Sheet](#).

To help your student become comfortable with the item types and response formats, the following resources are available at <http://www.FSAssessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/paper-based-practice-test-materials/>:

- Paper-Based Practice Tests and Answer Keys
- Student Presentations

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing **or** during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them**. If your student is found with an electronic device during testing, his or her test will be invalidated. Cell phones are tagged with the student’s name, turned off, and stored in the same room the student is testing.
- **Calculators**—Calculators are not permitted during Grades 3–6 Mathematics tests.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment printed in the student’s test and answer book that reads: “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by signing below the statement in their test and answer book.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they sign below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states: “Because the content in all statewide assessments is secure, you may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items, passages, and prompts) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites.” Please make sure your student understands this policy prior to testing and remind them that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**
- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated. In addition, FDOE employs Caveon Test Security to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Student tests within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will be invalidated.
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test session (e.g., for lunch, an appointment, illness), he or she **will not** be allowed to return to that test session. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days. You will be notified of your child’s scheduled make-up day(s) and times, as well as details regarding arrival and pick-up.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL) or a recently exited ELL, please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student. Providing all accommodations are a part of the testing environment for your child and have been put into place before your child arrives to campus.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, please contact Suzan Eshleman at 772-345-3245. For more information about the Florida Statewide Assessments program, please visit the portal at www.FSAssessments.org.

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during Spring 2021 assessments.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Kathleen Perez
Principal