April 14, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will participate in state level assessments during the month of May 2023. This includes the third administration (PM3) of the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Reading/Math assessments, Civics End-of-Course (EOC), Algebra EOC, Geometry EOC and/or the NGSSS Science assessments.

Your student’s FAST assessments are computer-adaptive tests taken on a computer. The questions become more or less difficult depending on how a student responds, and each student will see different questions from a common item bank. Each test attempt is a sample of the grade level expectations, therefore the idea behind the FAST assessment is to show growth over time from the 1st-3rd test administration. All other assessments given in May 2023 will remain similar to previous testing structures, meaning they are end-of-course assessments that are not adaptive.

A full calendar of all assessments administered at SSMS in May 2023 can be found by clicking here: <https://ssms.pasco.k12.fl.us/testing/>

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 or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test will be invalidated.
* **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment 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. The Testing Rules Acknowledgment states that because the content of all statewide assessments is secure, students may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items and passages) 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.
* **Leaving Campus**—If your student leaves campus before completing a test (e.g., for lunch, an appointment), they will not be allowed to return to that test. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for them to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
* **Testing Accommodations**—Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, or assigned English Language Learner (ELL) will be provided with their appropriate assessment accommodations.

*Per*[*Florida Statute 1008.22*](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1008/Sections/1008.22.html)*, as a Florida public school, we are required/mandated to administer statewide assessments to our students and all students in specified grade levels/courses are required to participate in State testing. As such, it is our obligation to use due diligence to comply with this requirement. Therefore, all students present and on campus on any testing or makeup testing days will be required to sit for the assessment.***Florida has no *opt-out*policy for state assessments**.*The test results provide parents, students, and teachers information about student performance. Teachers use this data to provide targeted instruction and supports to students. The school and district use the results to help target resources and supports.*[***1008.22 Student assessment program for public schools.***](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1008/Sections/1008.22.html)

If you have any questions related to any state assessments listed above, you may contact Alyssa Quina (Asst. Principal) at aquina@pasco.k12.fl.us. For more information about any of Florida’s State Assessments, please visit the portal at [www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/](http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/)

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging your student to do their best during this test administration.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Quina, Asst. Principal

Seven Springs Middle School