



Western Wayne School District EverGreen Elementary

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—April 2026



Words From Mr. Pidgeon, Principal

Most local parents of elementary school aged children know that the PSSA's (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment tests) are quickly approaching. This can be a nerve racking time for both children and adults. Parents may not know how to help their child prepare, while kids may become anxious as test taking time nears.

Some ways that parents can calm their own fears include:

- ⇒ Understand what the PSSA's are: Visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education website for an overview, read informational articles on the PSSA or talk to your child's teacher.
- ⇒ Understand what the PSSA's are not: Make sure that the information that you are given is correct. Don't base your understanding on what others have told you. Even parents of other children in your child's class may be misinformed. Always ask your child's teacher if you are in doubt.
- ⇒ Talk to your child: They might not be as scared or anxious as you think they are. Try not to project your test taking anxiety onto them.

Ways that parents can help their child to prepare for the PSSA's include:

- ⇒ Make sure that your child gets a good night sleep.
- ⇒ Create a relaxed home environment.
- ⇒ Serve your child a healthy breakfast. Proper nutrition will greatly help your child's concentration. Don't let them skip breakfast.
- ⇒ Show them that you are already proud of their work as a student. Tell them how smart you know they are. This will help to build their confidence.

More information will be coming home with your child as the PSSA's get nearer.

Mr. Pidgeon



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Beginning Monday, April 20, 2026, through Friday, April 24, 2026, all students in Grades 3, 4, & 5 will be given the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Test (PSSA) in English/Language Arts (ELA). On Monday, April 27, 2026, through Wednesday, April 30, 2026, all students in Grades 3, 4 & 5 will be given the PSSA test in Math. And, on Thursday, May 1, 2025, and Friday, May 2, 2025, students in Grade 5 will only be given the PSSA test in Science. These tests will help the faculty and administration develop an appropriate educational program for your child.

**Information for Parents or Guardians
Pennsylvania System of School Assessment
(PSSA) English Language Arts Assessment, April 20–24, 2026
Mathematics and Science Assessment, April 27–May 8, 2026**

When will the assessments occur? How long will it take?

The assessments will be scheduled by the school district to take place during the testing window of March 31 through April 4, 2008. The reading and mathematics assessments will take approximately six hours. Your school district should inform you about the assessment schedule.

Which students will take the assessments?

Since the assessments are designed to help determine the quality of the school programs, all students are to be included in the assessments, except for a few students who meet specific criteria.

If, after reviewing the assessments, parents do not want their child to participate in the mathematics or reading assessments due to a conflict with their religious beliefs, they may write a note to the school district superintendent to excuse their child from the assessments prior to the beginning of the assessments.

Who will administer the assessments?

Each school chooses the person(s) who will administer the assessments. In most cases, these are the students' teachers, who are often helped by the principal or guidance counselor.

Can parents see the assessments?

Parents (guardians) may review the assessments by making arrangements with the school assessment coordinator once the assessments arrive at the school. No copies of the assessments or notes about the items will be permitted to leave the school and confidentiality agreements must be signed.

What will the assessments include?

Each student will take three sets of items for each of the reading and mathematics assessments. Some sets will be the same for all students, and some sets will consist of different groups of items distributed randomly. These different items allow broader coverage of the reading and mathematics content taught by the schools.

**Who is participating?**

In all 501 school districts, students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the reading and mathematics assessments. Nonpublic and private schools may participate on a voluntary basis.

Who decided what the assessments should measure?

Groups of educators from all levels of education in Pennsylvania chose the areas of knowledge on which the assessments are based. The groups included teachers, supervisors, curriculum directors, and college specialists. They also reviewed, edited, and approved items that were written to align with Pennsylvania's assessment anchors.

What will be assessed in reading?

The reading assessment addresses two elements of the reading process. Students will indicate (1) comprehension and reading skills and (2) analysis and interpretation of fiction and nonfiction text by answering multiple-choice questions where the correct answer is chosen from four options presented, and open-ended questions that require students to write their responses.

What will be assessed in mathematics?

Through the use of both multiple-choice items and open-ended items, the mathematics assessment addresses the five major Reporting Categories. The proportion of items devoted to each Reporting Category varies by grade level. As a part of the assessment of Reporting Category A, *Numbers and Operations*, students will respond to a special section of times in which use of a calculator will not be permitted. The performance tasks require the students to show all of their mathematical work (calculations, graphs, drawings, etc.) and to explain in writing how they solved the problems.

How will the written responses be scored?

The written responses for reading and mathematics items will be scored by evaluators trained in applying a pre-determined scoring system. In reading and mathematics, scores will be based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process.

How will the results be reported?

Reports for reading and mathematics will be sent to the school districts for distribution to parents, teachers, and guidance counselors and/or principals. The state will not receive any reports with individual names included.

Results will be reported by school for curricular and planning purposes. School districts will publish the PSSA testing results for each school. The state will also release school-by-school assessment data.



ES



Well, Spring is in the air! The birds will be chirping, and all the beautiful flowers will be growing once again. We will be celebrating Easter early in the month.

The students continue to work hard. They are learning so much and having fun doing it. We will be taking the PSSAs this month! The students are prepared!!!



Pre-Kindergarten

This month in Language Arts, the Pre-Kindergarten students will be learning about nature all around us. They will listen to stories about how plants grow, what's in the sky, our weather, and the seasons. They will celebrate Earth Day with activities to help them learn about reducing, reusing, and recycling.

In math, the students will continue to learn about addition and subtraction using concrete objects. They will practice using drawings to help them solve story problems. They will also count ten objects using one to one correspondence.

Pre-Kindergarten will be observing their marigold plants, looking at the seed leaves, then the marigold leaves. They will be watching the outdoor environment for signs of spring.

The students will continue to print the letters of their first names, using the proper pencil grip and the strokes they have been practicing throughout the year.



Kindergarten



April brings a shower of activity to kindergarten! We are happy to have the wonderful signs of spring around us. Our classrooms are decorated with beautiful sunshine, rainbows, and kites, all of which were created by the students.

In our math lessons this month, the students will be reviewing addition and subtraction. They will also learn to read, write, and count numbers to twenty. We are continuing to count by 1's, 5's, and 10's to one hundred.

The kindergarteners are blossoming into "Good Readers." Their reading skills are improving each day! The children are segmenting and blending letter sounds in words, and they are learning to identify the vowel sounds in CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words.

As we move forward in our reading series the number of irregular words continues to increase. Please be sure to practice reading these words with your child each night. The more they read the more fluent readers they will become.



1st Grade

April has been a whirlwind of growth and "springing forward" in our first-grade classrooms. As the weather warms up, so does the pace of our learning! Here is a summary of some of our learning.

Our students are transitioning from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." We've seen a significant jump in fluency and comprehension across the board. We are almost to the ending modules of our Into Reading series book. In these modules, we will be working on long vowel patterns. We also are continuing to review all of our short vowels, blends, digraphs, and vowel rules. Please continue to work on your sight words nightly, this really helps your child become a better reader. Thanks for keeping up with the nightly reading; it really does make a difference.

As the end of the year approaches, students are looking forward to our Class Field Trip and Field Day. Our students will be second graders before we know it!



2nd Grade

Welcome Spring!



Spring is finally here, and we couldn't be happier!



In reading, students are going to learn about the growth of plants and what they need to thrive. The texts in this module encourage children to be curious as they investigate plant life. Students will be learning about animal habitats as well in Module 9. Through reading a variety of texts, the children will explore how the conditions of different habitats work for certain animals to survive. The students are very interested in this unit.

In math, students are working on graphing and fractions. Second grade students love being able to divide shapes into equal parts! We will also be laying the foundation for multiplication and division for third grade, by creating equal groups and arrays with different objects. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts with your child to improve their automaticity and fluency. We continue to practice here at school as well!

Students are being introduced to cursive writing for the first time. We will be introducing letters, and the students are very excited about learning this skill. We will be practicing this with the students daily so that when they learn the beginning skills of how to make the letters of the alphabet in cursive.

Finally, we have finished up our science units for the year. In Social Studies we will be learning about Pennsylvania history as well as geography. Students will learn map skills to help them identify the continents and the oceans. They love learning about the state they live in.



3rd Grade



With three-fourths of the school year under our belt, the change in season is putting a little welcome spring in our step! Our students have persevered with smiles on their faces and are showing great growth and increased self-confidence.

In Reading, we continue to immerse our young learners with repeated exposure to various genres as we review and revisit skills previously learned, even as we continue to introduce new concepts. Furthermore, we continue to build necessary confidence in demonstrating comprehension through a thorough written response.

With the conclusion of Topic 16 on perimeter, which included comparing and contrasting both areas and perimeters, math skills and concepts are being reviewed and revisited in preparation for upcoming state testing. This opportunity provides a refresher and reteach opportunity for various skills and concepts which may have proved challenging earlier in the school year. As always, we continue to concentrate on multiplication fluency by reviewing all mixed facts through 9s. Please continue to provide real-life hands-on learning opportunities to tell time on an analog clock, count mixed coins, make change, round, and see fractions in action. These real-life connections help reinforce necessary skills by seeing the value and importance they play at home.

Your continued support at home does not go unnoticed and is the key to success. We appreciate the team approach and collaboration in making our young learners the absolute best they can be! Together all things are possible!



4th Grade



4th graders are really enjoying our new reading series! This month we are reading fabulous texts about “The Marvels of Nature.”

We are discovering new and interesting facts about The Seven Wonders of the World. The Mariana Trench has fascinated us with its incredible depth and strange creatures such as the anglerfish and the flashlight fish!

In math we are learning new geometry skills! Learning all about angles, how to measure them using a protractor, and finding the measure of a missing angle using our knowledge of right angles and straight angles.

The Southwest states are our focus in Social Studies. Ask us all about Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. We know all about the climate, landforms, and job opportunities in the west. We also learned the state bird, flower, and culture!



5th Grade

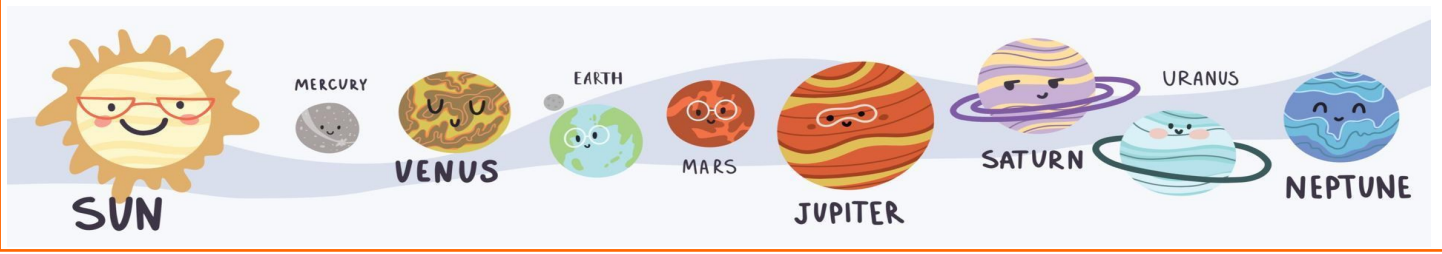
It’s hard to believe we have reached the 4th quarter of fifth grade! We are looking forward to the end of elementary school and the fun activities we will partake in to celebrate this milestone!

Math: During the month of April we will create and interpret data using various types of graphs. We will also review various topics taught throughout the year to prepare for state tests.

Reading: During the month of April we have been hard at work reviewing aspects of poetry, figurative language, and text dependent analysis responses. We are looking to finish the year strong as we prepare to take PSSA’s at the end of the month.

Science: We are exploring stars and constellations this month- with a focus on our sun and the importance of its role in our Solar System.

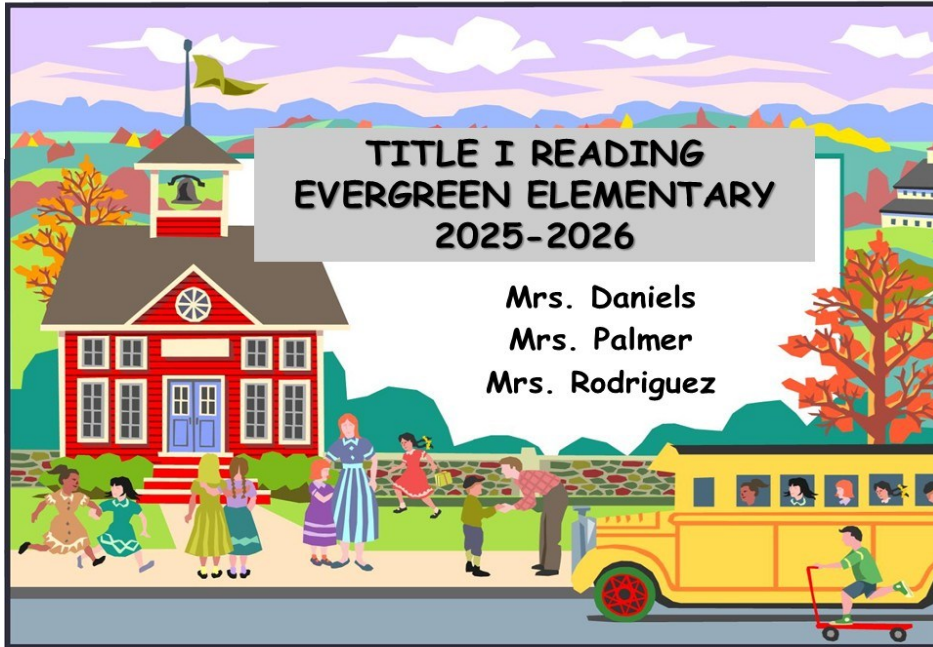
Social Studies: We are wrapping up our unit on World War II and will soon begin our study of the Cold War. In addition to using our textbook, we will be reading the novel A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielsen to deepen our understanding of this historical period.



Title 1

Please mark your calendars for the annual Title I Awards Night to be held on Friday, April 24th! More specific information regarding this event will be sent home. We hope to see you there to celebrate all of the hard work the children have done throughout the year!

We know spring is a busy time of year. Please remember to practice your sight words and continue to read the homework books nightly. We are in the home stretch let's finish the year strong.



Early Intervention	12
Pre-Kindergarten	49
Kindergarten	66
First Grade	88
Second Grade	70
Third Grade	78
Fourth Grade	74
Fifth Grade	<u>67</u>
	504
Outside Placement	<u>+ 4</u>
Total	508

