



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

PEMBROKE LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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The School Board of
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April 18, 2021

Robert W. Runcie
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your child will take the paper-based Grade 3, Grade 4 or Grade 5 Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) or Statewide Science assessments beginning at 8:30 a.m. as follows:

ALL 4th Grade students, including e-Learners, will take the 80 minute English Language Arts FSA on May 4 and May 5.

ALL 5th Grade students, including e-Learners, will take the 80 minute Statewide Science Assessment on May 6 and May 7.

ALL 3rd Grade students, including e-Learners, will take the 80 minute Mathematics FSA on May 10 and May 11.

ALL 5th Grade students, including e-Learners, will take the 80 minute English Language Arts FSA on May 12 and May 14.

ALL 4th Grade students, including e-Learners, will take the 80 minute Mathematics FSA on May 18 and May 19.

ALL 5th Grade students, including e-Learners, will take the 80 minute Mathematics FSA on May 20 and May 21.

Per the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), no remote administrations are available for any statewide summative assessments. The Florida Department of Education (DOE) requires all students present during the testing window to participate in the assessment. Therefore, all students present on any testing or make-up testing days will be required to sit for the assessment. Furthermore, unlike some states, Florida has no "opt-out" policy for state assessments used as the required measures of student achievement for the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. Students not in attendance on day of their test(s) will be marked absent and standard absence reporting procedures will be in effect. The final determination of whether a student is in attendance on their scheduled testing day remains with the parent/guardian(s).

All e-Learning students should **arrive by 8:15 a.m.** on the day of testing in the bus loop on the east side of the building (Hiatus Road). Please prepare an 8x11 piece of paper with your child's first and last name, and classroom teacher's last name. In an effort to adhere to CDC guidelines, only students taking the assessment should exit the car wearing a mask secured over mouth and nose. Your child will be greeted at your car, marked present for the day, and directed by a staff member to enter the cafeteria.



Students will sit in a designated, sanitized spot 6 feet distant from other students. Each student needs to bring his/her own refillable water bottle. All testing materials will be provided, including sanitized pencils. Laptops are not needed for testing.

Assessment will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. each day for 80 minutes. e-Learning students must be picked up promptly at 10:00 a.m. on their testing days.

Current ESOL, IEP or 504 Plan accommodations will be provided to eligible students. Parents of students with accommodations will be contacted for pick-up.

The health and safety of all Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) students and staff are among Pembroke Lakes Elementary School's highest priorities. BCPS has deployed personal protective equipment, signage and electrostatic sprayers to all schools to assist with ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for students and teachers. **All students, employees and visitors are expected to complete a daily at home health assessment before leaving for school or work each day. In addition, all students, employees, visitors and vendors are required to wear face coverings secured over mouth and nose, unless medically exempt.** Additional information about the District's health and safety protocols can be found online at <https://www.browardschools.com/coronavirus>.

The goal of statewide assessments is to provide academic achievement and learning gains data to students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and district staff to measure progress and achievement for learners. While no single assessment is the sole determiner of promotion, statewide assessment results are considered for a variety of school-based decisions such as promotion, course placement, and acceptance into magnet programs. Students who do not participate in mandatory statewide assessments risk the possibility of being placed in remediation the following school year, and other consequences (such as retention) based on the district's Student Progression Plan. For further information on promotion criteria, please see School Board Policy 6000.1 Student Progression Plan at <https://www.browardschools.com/progressionplan>. Final recommendations for promotion or retention will be made on a holistic review of the student's academic performance during this school year and their readiness for the following grade level.

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

To help your child 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

The Grade 5 Statewide Science Assessment measures Grades 5 student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in Science. The Assessment consists of two 80-minute paper-based test sessions administered over two days. If you or your student would like to gain familiarity with the item types and response formats your student will see on his or her Statewide Science Assessment, sample questions and



answer keys are available at <https://FSAssessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/paper-based-materials/paper-based-practice-test-materials.shtml>.

Please review the following policies with your child 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 child is found with an electronic device during testing, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **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 child 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 child 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 child 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.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your child 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 child.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, please contact Lori McLaughlin at 754-323-6950. For more information about the Florida Statewide Assessments program, please visit the portal at www.FSAssessments.org.



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**The School Board of
Broward County, Florida**

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marsha M. Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marsha M. Wagner
Proud Principal

MMW:kf