



Neshaminy School District

2001 Old Lincoln Highway • Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047-3295

LOWER SOUTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
7 School Lane, Feasterville, Pennsylvania 19053

Beth A. Fox
Principal

January 27, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this time to remind you that your children will be taking the PSSA assessment in March. All students in grades 3-5 will be assessed in the areas of reading and math. Students in grade 4 will also be assessed in science and students in grade 5 will be assessed in writing.

Pennsylvania has identified four levels of performance: The **Advanced** Level reflects superior academic performance. Advanced work indicates an in-depth understanding and exemplary display of the skills included in the Assessment Anchors. The **Proficient** Level reflects satisfactory academic performance. Proficient work indicates a solid understanding and adequate display of the skills included in the Assessment Anchors. The **Basic** Level reflects marginal academic performance. Basic work indicates a partial understanding and limited display of the skills included in the Assessment Anchors. This work is approaching but not reaching satisfactory performance. There is a need for additional instructional opportunities and/or increased student academic commitment to achieve the Proficient Level. The **Below Basic** Level reflects inadequate academic performance. Below Basic work indicates little understanding and minimal display of the skills included in the assessment.

It may seem that the PSSA is only talked about in terms of schools and districts meeting "AYP" status (adequate yearly progress). However, as indicated above, the performance scores are indicators of how well your child has demonstrated his/her level of understanding of important standards of learning. It does matter how well they perform on these assessments because it gives students, parents, teachers, and administrators information on areas of strengths and needs for instructional purposes. It also gives us information on the depth of knowledge a child has achieved.

Our teachers have been working with your children on these concepts and skills since the beginning of the school year, and they provide essential instruction and practice for mastery. However, we are all aware of the research indicating that children perform their best when home and school work together. With that in mind, I encourage you to visit Lower South's website to obtain information regarding important vocabulary concepts and reading tips that will help you work with your child as they prepare for the PSSA. I recommend you use these in addition to any other work your child is assigned for homework.

I am asking that you work with your child for 15 minutes per evening up to "testing time." The value of your time, commitment, and partnership with the school is immeasurable, but clearly necessary for your child's success.

Thank you for all you do to make our school community one of which to be proud.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Fox
Principal