

HOMER-CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Vincent R. Delconte
Superintendent
(724) 479-8080

65 Wildcat Lane
Homer City, PA 15748-1602

Beverly N. Gardner
Business Manager

FAX: (724) 479-3967
www.homercenter.org

Carol N. Black
Board Secretary
(724) 479-3601

"Where Everybody is Somebody"

October 8, 2009

Dear Parents:

In accordance with the recommendation of the administrative staff and guidance personnel, the Board of School Directors will provide a district-wide testing program designed to assess the academic achievement, aptitude, or vocation interest of each child in the district.

The results of some of these tests provide a continuing record of each child's academic progress in comparison with national norms. They are also an invaluable aide to your child's teachers and counselor in diagnosing individual abilities, aptitudes, interests, strengths, and weaknesses in order to provide more effective individualized instruction. During the coming year, the following tests will be administered to your child as part of this program.

<u>Name of Test</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, Grades 10 and 11 (optional)	October 14, 2009	Measurement of verbal and numerical achievement.
PSSA Re-Test Grade 12	Oct. 26-30, 2009	To provide an opportunity for re-testing for those students who, in the 11 th grade, scored below proficient level in the areas of reading, math, writing.
Pennsylvania 4-Sight Reading & Mathematics Assessments Grades 3-11	Fall 2009 Winter 2009 Spring 2010	Measurement of student progress toward meeting PA Academic Standards.
DIBELS: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills	Fall & Winter 2009 Spring 2010	A set of standardized, individual administered measures of early literacy development. Used to regularly monitor the development of pre-reading and early reading skills.
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Tests Grade 11- By sign-up only	November 17, 2009	Measurement of vocational aptitudes and math verbal achievement.
Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment	Feb. 15-Mar. 26, 2010	Grades 3-8, and 11 Math and Reading

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PSSA Writing Assessment Grades 5, 8, 11	April 19-23, 2010	The writing assessment provides information to individual students, parents, and school district, about the current status of student writing and a process that monitors writing skill development.
PA Department of Education PSSA Math/Reading Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11	April 7-16, 2010	School Profile Survey measures demographic features of the school district. PA System of School Assessment (PSSA) assesses reading, math, and writing.
PA Department of Education PSSA Science Assessment Grades 4, 8, 11	April 26-30, 2010	Assesses science skills.
Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment	May 3-28, 2010	Grades 4, 8, 11 Science
Cognitive Abilities Test Grade 3	Spring, 2010	To provide measurement of the general mental ability.

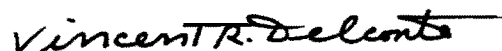
Health Testing

Medical Exam	K, 6, and 11	Vision exam retest for initial failure. Hearing exam retests for initial failure and all previously identified with hearing impairments.
Dental Exam	K, 3 and 7	
Vision	All grades – every year	
Hearing	K, 1, 2, 3, 7, and 11	
Scoliosis	6 and 7	
Speech Screening	K, 2 and 5	
Height/Weight	All grades – every year	
Sports Exams	7-12 (once per year)	
Body Mass Index (BMI)	Grades K-12 – every year	

In addition to the above tests, the school psychologist, counselor, speech, hearing, vision clinicians, and/or support teacher may participate in the instructional support process with your child. This process may include classroom observations and individual meetings with your child to assist in collecting information to adapt your child's basic education program if necessary. Should a decision be made to administer any additional standardized (published) test to your child, further permission will be obtained from you.

All test scores will be recorded and maintained in the school record, while your child is enrolled in our schools. No individual or agency outside of the school system will be permitted to inspect your child's records without your written permission. Should you wish to examine your child's record file at any time, you may arrange to do so by contacting the principal's office for an appointment.

Sincerely,



Vincent R. Delconte, Ed.D.
Superintendent