

Update on Universal Screeners STAR 360 & CogAT 7

Dear K-6 Parents/Guardians:

As you know, Pine-Richland School District is in the second year of implementation for two new universal screeners for achievement and ability, STAR 360 and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT 7).



The STAR 360 universal screener was administered the first few weeks of school for all students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. STAR 360 is an assessment reflecting grade-level domain mastery down to the sub-skill level across reading and mathematics. The assessments are administered three times annually to all K-6 students, with testing windows in September, January, and March. This allows for a measurement of students' growth and achievement levels throughout an academic year. **The results of the STAR 360 assessments will be mailed home to K-6 parents the week of October 29th, allowing them to be reviewed prior to the [parent/teacher conferences on November 8th and 9th](#).**

The reading portion of STAR 360 is also administered on a regular basis to all students in grade 7 as a component of the building-based reading initiatives. In addition, any students receiving interventions in grades 7-12 will be assessed in reading and/or math to monitor students' progress towards their individual goals.

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT 7) will be administered the week of November 12th-16th to students in second and fifth grades. These tools will provide data to teachers to help shape instructional decisions to meet individual needs. Reports of student performance on the CogAT will be mailed to families in December, following the assessment.

In addition to Star 360 and CogAT 7 testing windows, you can view PSSA windows for your convenience.

CogAT 7, PSSA & STAR 360 Testing Window

Grade Level	Testing	Window
Grade 2 & 5	CogAT 7 (Cognitive Abilities)	Nov. 12-16, 2018
Grades K-3 & 4-6	STAR 360 (Math & Reading)	Jan. 7-25, 2019
Grades K-3 & 4-6	STAR 360 (Math & Reading)	March 4-22, 2019
Grades 3-8	ELA PSSA	April 23-25, 2019
Grades 3-8	Math PSSA	April 29-30, 2019
Grades 4 & 8	Science PSSAs	May 1-2, 2019
Grades 3-8	PSSA Make-Up Window	May 1-3, 2019

We encourage students to develop healthy routines to support their wellness and not to place undue stress on themselves about these assessments. We believe in our everyday approach to the students' learning, **focusing on every student, every day**, and providing them with the learning opportunities, interventions and enrichment required to help them perform their best. If you would like to learn more about any of these assessments, please visit the additional resources below by clicking on the links.

Additional Exam Resources

Star 360 - [FAQs & Parent Guide](#)

CogAT 7 - [Additional Information](#)

PSSAs - [FAQs, Calculator Policy & Electronic Device Guidelines](#)

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristen Silbaugh
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education & Curriculum

Mr. Noel Hustwit
Director of Student Services
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