



April 16, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child(ren) will be participating in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) Examination, a state-mandated standardized assessment for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science (Science is for grades 4th& 8th **only**). The details below provide important information and policies, so please take a few minutes to review them.

School Policy on Electronic Devices

As explained in the Electronic Devices Parent Letter, all unapproved electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, cameras, etc.) and other communication devices **will not be allowed during the test administration**. For purposes of the PSSA administrations, a student observed actively engaged with an unapproved electronic device is defined as using the device. A student not suspected of using the unapproved electronic device, but in possession of an unapproved electronic device on his/her person or placed where one could easily access it, is different from using an unapproved electronic device.

The following actions will be taken if a student is found in possession of an electronic device during testing: *(school personnel will determine if it was used to compromise the security or integrity of the test. Students that violate the ban on cell phones and other electronic devices, but did not compromise security/integrity, will be disciplined according to the Tacony Academy Charter School Handbook. This may include out of school suspensions).*

The following actions will be taken if a student is found using a cell phone during testing:

- 1) School personnel will determine if it was used to compromise the security or integrity of the test.
- 2) Students that violate the ban on cell phones and other electronic devices, and did compromise security/integrity, will be disciplined according to the handbook and could face hefty fines from the state. Please see the letter included in this packet from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for more information.
- 3) A "Do Not Score" label will be applied to his/her answer booklet and the student will either have to retake the test from the beginning, or not receive a score.



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- 4) The phone or communication device will be confiscated until such time that you come to the school. In your presence, the cell phone or other device will be viewed to ensure that it contains no information or material about the assessment
- 5) If items on an assessment are compromised, they will have to be replaced. Parents and students may be responsible for the cost of replacing the items.

Please review the above policies carefully and discuss them with your student. As always, we expect your full cooperation in this important matter.

If you have questions on any of the included documents or cell phone policy, please contact me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ryan Strasko
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