



### KEY CLUB PA DISTRICT CONVENTION

Our Key Club members received the following recognitions and awards at the Key Club PA District Convention the weekend of 4/1/23:

- Alexa Tira('24) - elected to serve as the PA State Bulletin Editor
- Marissa Hartland('24) - inducted as Division 7 Lieutenant Governor
- Anna Baylor('24) - recipient of the Sandy Nininger Medal
- Riley Nelson('24) - recipient of the Bob Bagans Unsung Hero Award
- Hannah Klotz('23) - 2nd place in the oratory contest
- Elise Beishline('24) - 2nd place in the non-digital poster

Our Club Awards included:

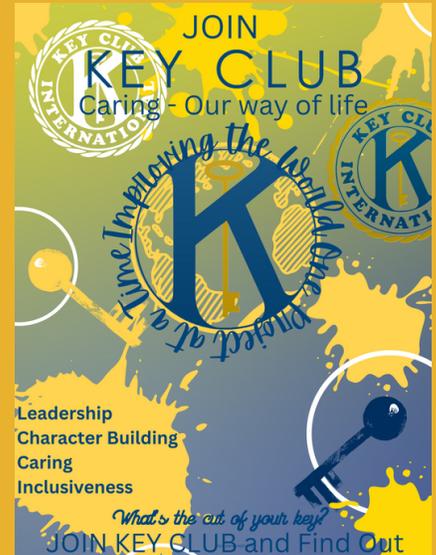
Distinguished Club Award

Distinguished Club officers: Hannah Klotz('23), Shyanne Klemick('23),

Ruby Muse('23), Shyloh Klemick('23), Drew Seese('23) & Gabby

Shearer('23)

William Brandamore Kiwanis Family Award



Ben Foster('24) took 1st place in the Digital Poster Competition. Ben's poster will be sent to Key Club International to represent the State of PA.



### WARRIOR PALS

One way Key Club earns so many hours is through the Warrior Pals Program. 4th graders at Lyter and Loyalsock Valley connected with their Warrior Pals to complete a service project together. Each pair of students put together an origami kit for Caitlin Smiles. Here's a link to learn more about them:

<https://caitlins-smiles.org/>

MAHS Key Club took 1st place in the Youth Serving Youth Award, Highest Club Average of Service Hours, Highest Club Service Hours, and Single Service Award.

# MORE ON KEY CLUB WARRIOR PALS

In September of 2017, Key Club members rolled out the Warrior Pal Program, a mentoring program that includes every fourth grader in the Montoursville Area School District, plus close to 120 Key Club members at the high school.

Each year since then, every fourth grader is paired with a Warrior Pal (a Key Club student). Warrior Pals act as mentors, and pen pals, and write back and forth to their fourth graders throughout the school year. The letters are based on the TERRIFIC Kids Program, which is sponsored by the Montoursville Kiwanis Club. This program focuses on eight key character traits that terrific kids exhibit: Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Responsible, Respectful, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive, and Capable.

The program not only encourages the fourth graders to be better kids and students, but also allows them the chance to practice letter writing skills. Students are not limited to just writing: some draw pictures, make lists, and ask questions. Some share jokes, and riddles. In addition, others write two- or three-pages worth of stories and memories.



Throughout the school year, Warrior Pals have the opportunity to meet in person through three assemblies. The assemblies include activities that promote being a TERRIFIC kid as well as providing time for Warrior Pals to interact and be together.

Overall, both the fourth-grade students and the Key Club members have benefited from the relationships they have formed. Key Club members have become strong, dependable mentors while fourth graders have thrived from the positive encouragement they have received from their high school Warrior Pals. The overwhelming success of the program has motivated the Key Club to look for ways to continue and better the program with each passing year.

This year there are 119 Key Club Warrior Pals matched up with 145 fourth graders.



## C.E. MCCALL SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

This year C.E. McCall Middle School held its 25th annual Science Fair. A total of 29 projects by 43 students were entered on a voluntary basis. Students earned extra credit in their science classes as well as discount coupons from Mel's Diner in Montoursville, Wendy's of Montoursville, and Dunkin Donuts on the Golden Strip.

Students were introduced in November to the opportunity to do projects in one of several categories. Investigations prioritize the scientific process to solve a unique problem or confirm settled science. Displays allow students to show what they know or have learned about scientific concepts that they find interesting.

Projects were judged by students from Lock Haven University on criteria shared with students. Students from Montoursville Area High School Science National Honor Society also came over to help judge projects.

The criteria were used to find average scores and the top three score earners won prizes of Amazon gift cards generously provided by the Montoursville Area School District Foundation.

## THE WINNERS FOR THIS YEAR'S FAIR ARE...

### INVESTIGATIONS

1st Place - **Gracie Copeland('28)** - "Will it Become Clear?"

2nd Place - **Analiese Crossen('27)** and **Adele Dunkleberger('27)** - "What Is a Red-footed Tortoise's Favorite Food?"

3rd Place - **Brent Crawford('28)** and **Jay Houseknecht('28)** - "How Well Do Plants Grow in Different Drinks"

### DISPLAYS

1st Place - **Alyvia Knittle('27)** - "Bioluminescence, What Is It?"

2nd Place - **Elyse Boyle('27)** and **Rowan Fortin('27)** - "What is Animal Testing"

3rd Place - **Estella Smelko('28)** - "What's the Buzz About Honey?"



## MASD FOUNDATION

*Building the Foundation for our Schools...Providing support for educational experiences that foster lifelong interest in learning and community.*

The Montoursville Area School District Foundation seeks to generate and promote funding to enhance the educational experience of our students. The Foundation provides otherwise unfunded opportunities for students served by the Montoursville Area School District.

Not only does the foundation seek monetary donations to support programs at the school district, they are always looking for volunteers.

To inquire about volunteer opportunities within the organization, please email them at: [masdf@montoursville.k12.pa.us](mailto:masdf@montoursville.k12.pa.us)

Opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Volunteering time at Fundraising Events
- Helping plan events
- Board Membership

## PSSA AND KEYSTONE DATES

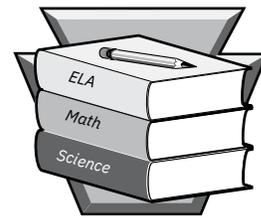
### PSSA Exams

English Language Arts	April 24-28	Grades 3-8
Mathematics	May 1-5	Grades 3-8
Science	May 1-5	Grades 4 & 8
Make-ups	May 1-5	Grades 3-8

### Keystone Exams

Biology	May 15-26
Algebra	May 15-26
English Literature	May 15-26





### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PSSA

#### Which schools participate?

All school districts and charter schools participate in the assessments. Nonpublic and private schools may also participate on a voluntary basis.

#### Which students take the assessments?

Except for a very few students who meet specific criteria for participation in an alternate assessment, all students are included in the assessments as outlined below :

ELA & Mathematics—Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

Science—Grades 4 and 8

#### Who decided what the assessments should measure?

Groups of educators from all levels of education in Pennsylvania chose the areas of knowledge and skills upon which the assessments are based. The groups included teachers, supervisors, curriculum directors, and college specialists. They also reviewed, edited, and approved the test items.

#### Who administers the assessments?

Each school chooses the person(s) who will administer the assessments. In most cases, these are teachers in the students' building.

#### How are the results reported?

Two copies of the individual student report for all assessments will be sent to all schools and districts that participate for distribution to parents, teachers, school counselors, and/or principals. The state will not receive any report with individual names included.

School-level reports will be used for curricular and planning purposes. School districts and charter schools may publish the results of PSSA testing for each school. The state will also release school-by-school assessment data.

#### May parents see the assessments?

Yes, under one circumstance. School entities are required to have policies to ensure that parents or guardians have the right to review a state assessment in the school entity during convenient hours for parents or guardians from the time testing materials are received to the end of the make-up schedule in order to determine whether a state assessment conflicts with their religious belief. This is the only reason allowable under regulation.

Confidentiality agreements must be signed, and no copies of the assessments or notes about assessment items will be permitted to leave the school. If after reviewing the test, parents or guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious belief and wish their student(s) to be excused from the test, the right of the parents or guardians will not be denied upon written request to the applicable school district Superintendent, charter school Chief Executive Officer, or AVTS Director. Parents or guardians should contact their child's school to make arrangements to review the test.

#### Report Testing Irregularities

Parents/guardians who believe that a testing irregularity may have occurred may email [ra-edirregularities@pa.gov](mailto:ra-edirregularities@pa.gov) or call 844-418-1651 to report the incident.

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENT (grades 3 through 8)

#### How long does the assessment take?

The entire English Language Arts assessment takes approximately three to four hours to complete. Your school district will inform you about the assessment schedule.

#### What does the assessment include?

Each student completes three sections of questions for the English Language Arts assessment. Some portions will be the same for all students, and some will consist of different groups of questions.

#### What types of questions are on the assessment?

Students respond to multiple-choice, evidence-based selected-response, and constructed-response questions. In a multiple-choice question, the correct answer(s) is chosen from four options. Evidence-based selected-response questions have two parts, and students select one or more answers for each part. Constructed-response questions may include a short-answer (grade 3) or text dependent analysis (grades 4 through 8). Short-answer questions require students to compose a brief response to support their answer. For the text dependent analysis question, students analyze a text and use evidence from the reading passage to compose an essay.

## **How are written responses to constructed-response items scored?**

The written responses for English Language Arts are scored by evaluators trained in applying an ELA-specific scoring guideline. For short-answer questions, scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process. Responses to text dependent analysis questions are scored based on both content and writing skills.

## **What is assessed in English Language Arts?**

The English Language Arts assessment addresses six major reporting categories as well as two text types. Students respond to standalone multiple-choice items assessing language. Additionally, students read a number of passages from literature and informational genres and respond to questions about these passages that indicate both comprehension and reading skills and the students' analysis and interpretation of different types of texts.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT (grades 3 through 8)**

### **How long does the assessment take?**

The entire mathematics assessment takes approximately two to three hours to complete. Your school district will inform you about the assessment schedule.

### **What does the assessment include?**

Each student completes two sections of questions for the mathematics assessment. Some portions will be the same for all students, and some will consist of different groups of questions.

### **What types of questions are on the assessment?**

Students respond to two types of questions: multiple-choice and open-ended. In a multiple-choice question, the correct answer is chosen from the four presented options, while open-ended questions require students to compose their responses. Open-ended questions generally require students to provide detail in support of their answers (such as showing or describing the steps performed to complete a calculation).

### **How are written responses to open-ended items scored?**

The written responses for mathematics open-ended items are scored by evaluators trained in applying a mathematics-specific scoring guideline. In mathematics, scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process.

## **What is assessed in Mathematics?**

The mathematics assessment addresses five major reporting categories across four clusters. The reporting categories assessed and the proportion of questions in each reporting category vary by grade level. As a part of the assessment of Cluster A, Numbers and Operations, students in grades 4 through 8 respond to a set of questions without a calculator. Constructed-response items may require the students to show all of their work (e.g., calculations, graphs, drawings) and/or to explain in writing how they solved the problems.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCIENCE ASSESSMENT (grades 4 and 8)**

### **How long does the assessment take?**

The entire science assessment takes approximately one to two hours to complete. Your school district will inform you about the assessment schedule.

### **What does the assessment include?**

Students in grades 4 and 8 complete two sections of questions for the science assessment. Some portions will be the same for all students, and some will consist of different groups of questions.

### **What types of questions are on the assessment?**

Students respond to two types of questions: multiple-choice and open-ended. In a multiple-choice question, the correct answer is chosen from the four presented options, while open-ended questions require students to compose their responses. At grade 8, the science assessment also includes science scenarios.

### **What is a science scenario?**

A science scenario contains text, graphics, charts, and/or tables and uses these elements to describe the results of a class project, an experiment, or other similar research. Students use the information found in a science scenario to answer multiple-choice questions.

### **How are written responses to open-ended items scored?**

The written responses for science open-ended items are scored by evaluators trained in applying a science-specific scoring guideline. In science, scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process.

### **What is assessed in science?**

The science assessment addresses the four major reporting categories: The Nature of Science, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Earth and Space Sciences. The proportion of items in each reporting category varies by grade level.

# Information for Parents or Guardians

## Pennsylvania Keystone Exams



### What are the Keystone Exams?

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to evaluate proficiency in academic content. Beginning with the class of 2022–2023, students must demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams to graduate or fulfill one of the other pathways provided to graduate. Students will be offered multiple opportunities to take the keystones throughout their high school career.

### Who will participate in the Keystone Exams?

In 2012–13, the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams replaced the 11th-grade Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA) in math, reading, and science for purposes of student, educator, and school accountability. Students should take the Keystone Exams at or near the end of a Keystone-related course. The students' results are banked until their junior year for accountability purposes and until their senior year for graduation purposes. Some students who previously completed a Keystone-related course but did not take the Keystone Exam will also participate for accountability purposes. All students who take a Keystone Exam may re-take the exam.

### When will the exams be offered?

The Keystone Exams will be administered three times each year—winter, spring, and summer. Specific administration dates will be published by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

### Who decided what Keystone Exams should measure?

Groups of educators from across Pennsylvania chose the areas of knowledge on which the Keystone Exams are based. The groups included teachers, supervisors, curriculum directors, and college specialists. Other groups of Pennsylvania educators also reviewed, edited, and approved exam questions.

### What is assessed on the Keystone Exams?

Pennsylvania adopted the Pennsylvania Core Standards, standards aligned with expectations for success in college and the workplace. The keystones are designed to measure these standards.

### How long is a Keystone Exam administration?

There is no time limit for a student to complete a Keystone Exam. Each Keystone Exam should take the typical student two to three hours to complete. There are two modules on each test, and each module (or Test Session) of the Keystone Exam should take one to 1.5 hours to complete. Districts can administer the Keystone Exam modules across two days or divided across the morning and the afternoon of the same day.

### What are the available formats for administering the Keystone Exams?

The Keystone Exams are available in both online and paper and pencil formats. Districts will determine if online, paper and pencil, or both formats will be used locally. Makeup exams will also be administered in either online or paper and pencil format.

### Will students have an opportunity to experience online testing before taking a Keystone Exam online?

Tutorials and online training programs have been developed for the Keystone Exams. The PA Online Assessment Student Tutorial uses pictures, motion, and sound to present visual and verbal descriptions of the properties and features of the PA Online Assessment system. Students are allowed to repeat the Student Tutorial as often as desired and needed. The Online Tools Training (OTT) provides an introductory experience using the PA online assessment software allowing students to observe and try out features of the PA online assessment software prior to the actual assessment. Within the OTT, students also have the opportunity to practice typing responses in a narrative format, graphing functions, and entering equations using an equation builder tool. The online exam also has a “Help” feature that is available to the student during the exam.

### **What types of questions are on the Keystone Exams?**

The Keystone Exams will include multiple-choice questions and constructed-response, or open-ended, questions. For each Keystone Exam, approximately 60 percent to 75 percent of the total score will be from multiple-choice questions and 25 percent to 40 percent of the total score will be from constructed-response questions.

### **How are the written responses to constructed-response questions scored?**

The written responses for constructed-response questions are scored by evaluators trained in applying a pre-determined scoring system. Scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process. Most constructed-response questions require students to show their work or explain their reasoning. These Keystone Exam questions will ask students to explain, analyze, describe, or compare. Some questions will also require students to perform calculations or create graphs, plots, or drawings.

### **How are the results reported?**

Keystone Exam scores will be processed as quickly as possible and provided to the districts.

Two copies of the individual student report for all

Keystone Exams will be sent to the school districts and charter schools. One copy should be sent home to parents/guardians; the other is kept by the school/district.

School-level reports will be used for curricular and planning purposes. School districts and charter schools may publish the results of Keystone Exams for each school. The state will also release school-by-school exam data.

### **May parents see the Keystone Exams?**

Parents and guardians may review the Keystone Exams if they believe they may be in conflict with their religious beliefs by making arrangements with the School Test Coordinator once the exams arrive at the school. Confidentiality agreements must be signed, and no copies of the Keystone Exams or notes about exam questions will be permitted to leave the school.

If, after reviewing the Keystone Exams, parents or guardians do not want their child to participate in one or all of the exams due to a conflict with their religious beliefs, they may write a letter indicating they have a religious objection to the school district superintendent or charter school CAO to request their child be excused from the exam(s).

### **Report Testing Irregularities**

Parents/guardians who believe that a testing irregularity may have occurred may email [ra-edirregularities@pa.gov](mailto:ra-edirregularities@pa.gov) or call 844-418-1651 to report the incident.

**For additional information about the Keystone Exams, visit the PDE website at [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov) or contact your school district.**

# NEWS BRIEF

## MASD is Hiring



Want to become a Warrior?  
Montoursville Area School District is currently looking to hire for the following positions:

- Part-Time Paraprofessionals
- Part-Time Building Security
- Part-Time Custodial
- Exclusive Substitute Teacher
- Cafeteria Workers
- Substitute Health Care Aides
- Substitute Paraprofessionals
- Substitute Custodians



Details and how to apply can be found at our website by scanning the QR Code below. These are updated frequently, so check back often.

*The Montoursville Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and disability in its activities or employment practices as required by Title IV, Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.*



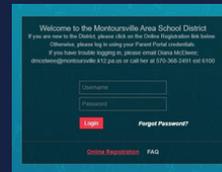
## School Calendar



**MAY 29**  
MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL  
**MAY 30**  
ACT 80 DAY - NO SCHOOL

<b>May 1</b> - HS Choir Concert	7:00 PM	MAHS
<b>May 8</b> - HS Band Concert	7:00 PM	MAHS
<b>May 15</b> - 4th Grade Concert	7:00 PM	MAHS
<b>May 17</b> -		
5th/6th Choral Concert	6:00 PM	McCall
7th/8th Choral Concert	7:30 PM	McCall
<b>May 18</b> -		
5th/6th Band Concert	6:00 PM	McCall
7th/8th Band Concert	7:30 PM	McCall

## Parent Portal



Please check the parent portal for your child's latest grades and attendance.

You can check the portal by scanning the QR Code below.



visit us @ [www.montoursville.k12.pa.us](http://www.montoursville.k12.pa.us)



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**PRIDE EXCELLENCE TRADITION**