

POINCIANA STEM ELEMENTARY

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATH

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Boynton Beach, FL 33435
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<http://www.poincianastem.org/>

Kathleen DePuma
Principal

Allison Lazarus
Assistant Principal

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the paper-based Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in Grades 3, 4 and 5 for Writing, ELA (Reading), Mathematics, and Science and to provide some critical information about the tests.

Poinciana STEM Elementary FY18 Testing Dates and Schedule:

Grades	DATE	Test	Actual time of test	Paper-based or computer-based
Grades 4 & 5	MARCH 6	WRITING	120 minute test	Paper
Grade 3	APRIL 10 & 11	ELA/READING	80 minute test each day	Paper
Grade 3	MAY 3 & 4	MATH	80 minute test each day	Computer
Grade 4	MAY 8 & 9	MATH	80 minute test each day	Computer
Grade 4	APRIL 26 & 27	ELA	80 minute test each day	Computer
Grade 5	APRIL 24 & 25	ELA	80 minute test each day	Computer
Grade 5	MAY 10 & 11	MATH	80 minute test each day	Computer
Grade 5	MAY 1 & 2	SCIENCE	80 minute test each day	Paper

We understand that testing is not everything that shows what a student knows, and we also know, that here at **Poinciana STEM**, there are a variety of ways the student can learn, create, question, and explore. Nevertheless, as a Florida Educational Institution, we will **ensure** that our students will be successful at ANY test that is given to us, because we have **prepared** the students academically and emotionally, by making them confident in the **Florida Standards** that we teach every day. Showing them sample test items, and practicing their skills on questioning techniques is a successful way to help their confidence, stamina, and ensure that their knowledge shines bright, as it does every day, at Poinciana STEM. Thank you for your support and positive words to your children about doing their best!

Your student will have an opportunity to participate in a practice test to become familiar with the computer-based testing platform, item types, and response formats he or she will see on the FSA assessments. If you or your student would like to review the computer-based practice test at home, the practice tests and answer keys are available at <http://www.fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/>.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing **or** during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them**. If your student is found with an electronic device, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Calculators**—Calculators are not permitted during Grades 3–6 Mathematics tests.

- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All FSA tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment that reads: “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by signing below the statement on their planning sheets, worksheets, or work folders.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they sign below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states: “Because the content in all statewide assessments is secure, you may not discuss or reveal details about the passages or items after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting online, for example, on websites like Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.” Please make sure your student understands that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to blogs or social media websites. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**
- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated. In addition, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) employs Caveon Test Security to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Student tests within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will be invalidated.
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student begins a test session and leaves campus before completing it (for lunch, an appointment or illness, etc.), he or she **will not** be allowed to return to that test session. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 plan, or English Language Learner (ELL) plan, please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Allison Lazarus, Assistant Principal, at Allison.lazarus@palmbeachschools.org, or 561-739-5700. For more information about the FSA assessment program, please visit the FSA Portal at www.FSAssessments.org.

Thank you for supporting your child and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen DePuma
Principal