



# Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School

1 Veterans Plaza  
Palisades Park, NJ 07650

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[www.palpkschools.org](http://www.palpkschools.org)



Mr. Frank Donohue  
Principal

Ms. Krista Voorhis  
Vice Principal

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

The State of New Jersey has ended its membership of the interstate consortium that produced the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) assessments. While the online platform (Pearson's TestNav) will remain the same, the state's English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments will now be called the **New Jersey Student Learning Assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics (NJSLA-ELA and NJSLA-M.)** Additionally, students in grades 8 and 11 will participate in the computer-based **New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science (NJSLA-S)**, replacing the New Jersey Biology Competence Test (NJBCT) in late May. Further scheduling information regarding the Science assessment for grades 8 and 11 is forthcoming.

Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School Students will test in grades **7-10 for ELA and Mathematics**, and grades **8 and 11 only in Science**. Students should arrive to school by 8:12 am each day. **Students in grades 11 and 12 will observe a “delayed opening” on all 4 testing days** (pending Board approval), **and should report to school by 10:30am**. Please refer to the attached *NJSLA Testing Schedule* for information regarding Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School students' specific testing dates and times.

The *New Jersey Student Learning Assessments* (NJSLA) are aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), which focus on critical thinking skills and students' ability to read, write, speak, listen, and solve problems independently. The Palisades Park Schools are committed to preparing our students with focused classroom instruction that make our courses of study more rigorous and aligned to the expectations of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Students will participate in the NJSLA on a computer, using the same online platform and tools they may be familiar with from previous PARCC assessments. Additionally, components of the NJSLA tests may include audio clips. **Students are permitted and encouraged to bring their own earbuds/headphones. Please note: Bluetooth-enabled earphone devices (“air pods,” etc.) are not permitted by the NJ Department of Education, and will not function in the secure online assessment platform.** A supplemental supply of headphones/earphones will be available in the school building for the testing session.

As part of the school community, parents and guardians play a vital role in preparing our students for this experience. Please be sure your child reports to school on time each day of testing. Should your child fall ill and miss a scheduled testing day, make-up testing days will be scheduled.

**As per NJDOE policy, the state prohibits students' use of any unauthorized electronic devices within the testing rooms.** These electronic devices include, but are not limited to: cell phones,



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tablets, smartwatches, ipods, electronic pens, etc. Students will not be permitted to bring these devices into the testing room.

On testing days, before the assessment has begun, Test Administrators will be required to collect and hold cell phones and/or other prohibited devices during the test period. These devices will be returned to the student once the testing session has concluded. If a student is found with a prohibited device once testing has begun, including during breaks, the following will occur:

- The student's test will be stopped and he/she may be dismissed from the testing room;
- The device will be collected and given to the Technology Coordinator for inspection;
- The parent/guardian will be notified of the incident and be required to come to school to collect the device.

Cell phones and/or other prohibited devices found during testing will not be returned to the student. We ask for your cooperation in sharing these important guidelines with your child.

**Administration of the NJSLA-ELA, NJSLA-M, and NJSLA-S is required by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and required by the Federal Department of Education. The NJDOE has not legislated an "opt-out" program, and all scheduled students are expected to participate.**

Please review the following links for additional information regarding NJSLA assessments:

- NJDOE Department of Assessments: <https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment>
- NJ Graduation Requirements: <https://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/parents>

We thank you in advance for your support of our students' academic success. Please contact your child's Guidance Counselor or myself with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Krista Voorhis  
Vice Principal  
Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School