**News You Can Use PSSA Edition**

**John Story Jenks School**

**PSSA Special Edition**

We are publishing this special edition of "News You Can Use" in order to bring you the latest information about the upcoming PSSA testing. We encourage you to read this carefully and discuss its contents with your child.

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is designed to provide information about the quality of school to parents, school districts, and the general public. All students in grades 3 – 8 and grade 11 in all 501 school districts throughout Pennsylvania will take both the reading and mathematics assessment.

Students at John Story Jenks will take the test beginning on April 11 for ELA and April 18 for Math.

**Students at J.S. Jenks must score advance or proficient in order to be able to participate in JAM Program, NHS (National Honor Society) and it may affect their ability to attend after school activities or be in clubs as well as some clinic activities.**

**Test Taking Tips for Students and Parents**

Parents:

Create awareness about the test. Talk about it but don't create anxiety.

Encourage children to relax before the test.

Provide a healthy breakfast each day.

Remind children to take the test seriously and listen carefully to instructions and answer every question.

Encourage your child to remain focused and do his or her best on the test.

Review information in this newsletter prior to the test about the testing.

Students:

Take the test seriously

Read the problems or questions carefully & completely

Respond to all the questions

Take your time

Check your work

Underline or highlight key info.

Take a close look at diagrams

Eat a nutritious breakfast

Go to bed at reasonable hour and get a good night's sleep

**How Parents Can Help**

**•** Attendance is critical! Students learn better with teachers and students in a classroom than during make-up sessions.

• Make every effort to have your child attend school on the dates of the assessments!

• Try not to schedule vacations during the school year, if possible.

• Students should get a good nights sleep regularly and especially on nights before the test.

• Provide a hearty breakfast each morning before school and before the test to help your child perform better.

• Help your child with homework when needed

• Keep in touch with your child’s teacher throughout the school year to make sure he or she is successful in school

• **Discuss the importance of doing these assessments with your child**