

PAS WEEKLY

pennalexander.philasd.org | Mr. Farrell, Principal | 215-400-7760

Upcoming Events:

Talking to Kids about Consent & Sexuality Workshop, facilitated by

Al Vernacchio

Monday, March 18th, 6-8PM

Spring Clubs Begin

Monday, March 18th

Pretzel (\$1) & Dress Down (\$1) Day

Friday, March 22nd

Ice Skating Party, Penn Rink (Home & School Sponsored)

Friday, March 22nd
7:10-8:40PM

Vetri Mobile Teaching Kitchen, 43rd Street

Monday, March 25th, 3-5PM

Home and School Association (HSA) Meeting & Movie Showing- Resilience

Tuesday, March 26th,
5:30-8PM

Scholastic Book Fair

Fri., March 29th- Fri., April 5th

Report Card Conferences, Noon Dismissal for Students
Wed., April 3rd- Fri. April 5th

Report Card Conferences (April 3rd-April 5th)

Save the Dates! Our third and final round of Report Card Conferences will take place on Wednesday, April 3rd- Friday, April 5th. Students will dismiss at Noon on all three days.



Kindergarten-5th grade families, your child's teacher will be reaching out with more information.

Middle School families, conferences will take place on the following days/times by grade:
6th: Wed., 4/3, 1-3PM, 7th: Thur., 4/4, 1-3PM, Fri., 4/5 1-3PM.

9th Annual 5K Run for Art & Science & 1 Mile Run/Walk

The PAS annual 5K is only 6 weeks away- Sunday, April 28th! Register now and support our Arts & Science programming.

runsignup.com/PAS5k



Home & School Association March Meeting & Movie Showing- Resilience

On Tuesday, March 26th at the HSA meeting the movie Resilience will be shown in partnership with the Philadelphia Teacher's Union, followed by a discussion.

Ice Skating Night- Friday, March 22nd

See flier included in this week's pony!



Penn Alexander HSA Family Ice Skating & Pizza Party



Friday, March 22, 2019

7:10 p.m. – 8:40 p.m. (Doors open at 6:40 p.m.)

Penn Class of 1923 Rink, 3130 Walnut Street

\$8.00 in advance / \$10.00 at the door

Price includes one admission & skate rental.

Parking pass provided in advance with prepayment of tickets.

Pizza, drinks, and snacks will be sold at the rink.

Return the bottom of this form **by Wednesday, March 20**. Or purchase tickets online at <https://pennalexanderschool.org/shop/>.

Check in at the rink entrance – no admission tickets will be distributed.

Student first & last name: _____ Room/Teacher Name _____

Parent email: _____ Parent Phone #: _____

Number of skating tickets: _____ x \$8.00 = Total enclosed: \$_____

Yes, I need a parking pass

Pay by cash or check payable to Penn Alexander HSA

Pay by credit card (Visa/MasterCard only)

Name on credit card _____

Card # _____ Sec. Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Billing address _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

I give permission for the PAS HSA to charge my credit card for the total amount listed above.

Signature of card holder _____

This fundraiser is sponsored by the Penn Alexander Home and School Association.

PAS Home & School Association General Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

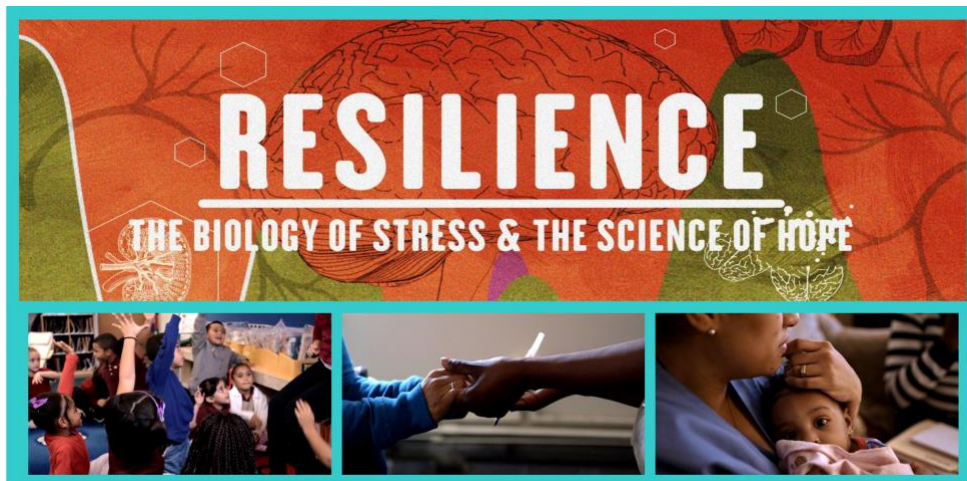
PAS Cafeteria & Gym

Please join the PAS HSA and the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers PFT Health and Welfare Fund as we show the movie *Resilience, The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope* (<https://vimeo.com/137282528>), followed by a brief Q&A.

Schedule of Events:

- 5:30 p.m. Pizza dinner in the Cafeteria (courtesy of the PFT)
- 6:00 p.m. HSA general meeting, including introduction of candidates for the SAC (in the gym)
- 6:30 p.m. Movie (in the gym)
- 7:30 p.m. Discussion / Q & A
- 8:00 p.m. End

** Babysitting for PAS Families will be provided. **



Volunteers Needed!
For PAS 9th Annual 5K and 1 mile
Sunday April 28th

PAS 9th Annual 5K and 1 mile fun run needs parent volunteers to help with the course, register, set-up, clean up, and more.

Sign up below and return in your child's pony. See Job descriptions on the back for times and job types. Some jobs can be done even if you are running. Additional questions? Email Julie Scott at juliescott1225@gmail.com.

Sign up online here:

<http://tinyurl.com/k7whvh3>

Volunteers receive a free race t-shirt!

Thanks for your help!

Name _____

Email Address _____

Job Choice: Circle your choice (s)

Set-Up

Registration

Food Distribution

Water Distribution

Course Guide

Driver

Clean-Up

Trash Management

Anywhere you need me!

Want to help out at the 5K, but aren't sure how? See below for Race Day job descriptions!

Set-up (6:30-8:00 am)

Early Risers! Come help set up tables, bring out the food, put up signage, and get ready for Race Day!

Registration (7:30-9:30 am)

Register Day-of registrants. No special skills required. We can show you how to do the registration.

Food Distribution (8:00-10:30 am)

Hand out donated food such as bananas and pretzels to race participants.

Water Distribution (8:00-10:00 am)

Stand at the end of the race and hand out water to runners coming in. We will also need you to fill the coolers with water and ice. If we have a really hot day, you will have a very crucial role!

Water Station Distribution (7:15-9:15 am)

We are putting a water station in Penn Park this year. We will need you to set up the stand, fill cups of water, hand them out to racers and clean up the cups at the end. All cups will be composted so bring them back for proper disposal. If we have a really hot day, you will have a very crucial role!

First Aid (7:30-10:30 am)

We are looking for nurses who can man our first aid table. Ideally we will have two, in case one needs to assist with someone on the course.

Course Guide (5K) (7:15-9:15 am)

The 5K race has many road crossings and turns. The police will be stationed to help with road crossings. Course guides are positioned along the way to show runners where to go, particularly at intersections and turns. We'll need your loudest voices to *CHEER* on runners! Course guides must arrive early and will be driven to their spots by Drivers (you will be assigned a driver). You can then arrange with your driver whether you will be picked up for a ride back or if you will walk back on your own. Spots close to school will be accessed by walking.

Drivers (7:15-8:00 am)

Drivers drop course guides off at their positions. (We will assign riders to you). You can also sign up to be a course guide, if you like. If you sign up for both positions, we will put you in a spot where you can easily park your car for the race duration. Please be sure to let us know how many people you can carry in your car when you sign up.

Clean-up (10:00-11:00 am)

At the end of the race, we need people to take down the tables, help put everything away, and generally clean up after the race. If you are a late riser, this a great job for you. You can come down at your leisure, watch the race, and then help clean up. This is also a great job for RUNNERS. You can run in the race and help too!

Trash Management (8:00-11:00 am)

The 5k aims to be as green as possible so we recycle and compost on Race Day. We need people to stand by each set of trash cans and make sure that everything goes in the right spot.

Photographers (7:30-11:00 am)

Have a camera? Come take pictures of the festivities! We'll need you to come early to get pictures of volunteers and set-up and stay through and get pictures of all the award winners and clean up. Pictures will be posted.

Anywhere You Need Me

Please volunteer here if you are willing to show up and find out what your job is. Most likely we will send you out to fill in for a course guide, but we may also need you around for general tasks that arise on the day.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
OFFICE OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & ASSESSMENT
440 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Keystone/PSSA Test Features and Accommodations, 2018-2019

- There are certain options available to *all* the students during testing such as the use of extended time and read aloud of all the items in math, science, Algebra 1, and Biology, and certain types of items in the ELA assessment, etc.
- Options available to all students are called "test features".
- The options available to Sp. Ed., EL, and 504 Plan students that are needed to allow them to participate in the assessment/s are called "accommodations". Therefore, accommodations are practices that provide equitable access to test items for these students.
- Accommodations are divided into 4 categories: Presentation, Response, Setting, and Timing.
- All accommodations that are available for the Keystone Examinations are also available for the PSSA.
- **It is critical to note that although some accommodations may be appropriate for instructional use, they may not be appropriate for use on a standardized assessment.**
- Accommodations must match the students' needs; students must be willing to use them; and students must be involved in their selection (See "Supplemental Resources" in the Accommodations Guidelines 2019 PSSA and Keystone Exams*).
- A best practice in choosing accommodations for testing is using the accommodations routinely with the student prior to testing and documenting successful use. It is not a good practice to provide an accommodation in an assessment situation that the student does not use on a regular basis.

Accommodations available to ELs ONLY

Three separate *voluntary* accommodations are allowed specifically for ELs:

- 1) Word-to-word translation dictionaries, without definitions, pictures, or internet connection ---- allowed in Algebra 1 and Biology Keystone Examinations and Mathematics and Science PSSAs ONLY (Available to ALL ELs irrespective of the number of years in the country)
- 2) Qualified interpreters/sight translators** ---- allowed in Algebra 1 and Biology Keystone Examinations, Mathematics and Science PSSAs, and Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) prompts of the ELA PSSA (Available ONLY for ELs in U. S. schools for less than 3 years)
- 3) Spanish/English test and answer booklets ---- allowed in Algebra 1 and Biology Keystone Examinations and Mathematics and Science PSSAs (Available ONLY for ELs in U. S. schools for less than 3 years)

NOTE: The aforementioned ELs-specific accommodations are NOT available for exited students.

***For more information on Test Features and Accommodation, use the following link and look in the Accommodations section:**

<http://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/PSSA/Accommodations/2018%20Accommodations%20Guidelines%20Handbook.pdf>

** For the roles of interpreters and sight translators, go to the above link, and then click on Accommodations Guidelines 2019 PSSA and Keystone Exams for ELs (page 6).

Penn Alexander School

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your student will be participating in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), a state-mandated standardized assessment on April 15th to May 3. The details below and the documents included with this mailing provide important information and policies, so please take a few minutes to review them.

Included Documents

1. Frequently Asked Questions - Information for Parents or Guardians
 - provides an overview of the basics of the PSSA
 - explains a parent's right to "opt out" his/her student from testing in the "May parents see the assessments?" section
2. Keystone/PSSA Test Features and Accommodations
 - defines test features and accommodations
 - provides a link to the complete Accommodations Guidelines documents
3. Electronic Devices Parent Letter
 - details the Pennsylvania Department of Education policy on and consequences for using cell phones and other electronic devices during testing

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 Keystone/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 Penn Alexander Code of Conduct

The following actions will be taken if a student is found using a cell phone 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, and did compromise security/integrity, will be disciplined by the School District of Philadelphia Code of Conduct
- 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
- 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
- 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 Megan Wapner.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Michael Farrell



Dear Parent/Guardian:

In an era of cell phones, smartphones and other electronic devices which can easily photograph and instantly share photographs, confidential and secure test materials can be easily compromised. Not only is it expensive to replace a compromised test item, the material contained in the PSSA and Keystone Exams is copyrighted property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Copying or duplicating the material from the assessment, including the taking of a photograph of secure assessment material, is a violation of the federal Copyright Act. Penalties for violations of the Copyright Act may include the cost of replacing the compromised test item(s) or fines of no less than \$750 up to \$30,000 for a single violation (17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.).

In order to ensure reliable test results and to avoid the cost of replacing test items, the Department of Education requires schools to set rules and take certain steps to protect test materials. Electronic devices such as but not limited to cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, E-readers, Nooks, Kindles, iPods, tablets, camera-ready devices, and any other electronic device which can be used to photograph or duplicate test materials, access the internet and/or communicate with others during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams are not permitted in any testing site. Please speak with your child and let him or her know that the possession and/or use of a cell phone or other electronic device during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams will result in consequences.

You will be contacted by the school if your child is discovered using and/or having a cell phone or other electronic device in his or her possession during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams. Students who ignore this directive will be subject to the school's discipline policy and the Department of Education's requirement that the student's test will not be scored and the student will be required to retake the entire exam. The electronic device will be held by school staff, and the device's stored photographs and other functions will be examined with your permission. You may request to be present when the electronic device is examined. If a photograph of the PSSA or Keystone Exam is discovered or if permission to search other functions of the electronic device is refused, the device will be held by the school staff. The Pennsylvania Department of Education holds the copyright to all material contained within the PSSA and Keystone Exams, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be contacted and further action may be taken.

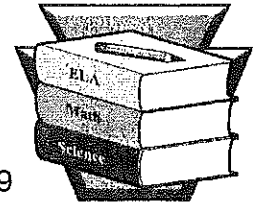
If, after testing is complete and test materials have been returned, it is discovered that a student used and/or had a cell phone or other electronic device in his or her possession during the administration of the test, the school's discipline policy will be followed and the student's scores will be invalidated.

Frequently
Asked
Questions

Information for Parents or Guardians

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

English Language Arts Assessment, April 15–26, 2019
Mathematics and Science Assessment, April 29–May 3, 2019



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-ed-pssa-keystone@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.

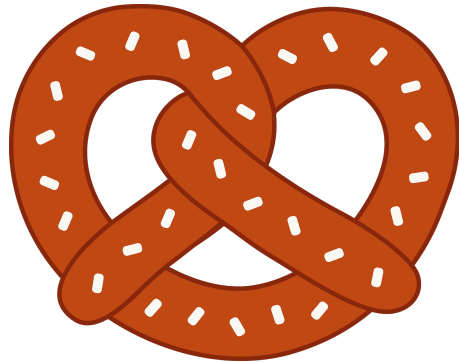
How are written responses to open-ended items scored?

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.

Pretzel Day! \$1



**Dress Down Day! \$1
Friday!**

CAMP SESSIONS & RATES

MATHLETICS

SESSION 1 **JUNE 10-14**
SESSION 2 **JULY 8-12**

9AM - 3PM

Registration **\$475.00**

This camp makes use of the outdoors, sports, and math to engage students in a fun-filled, math intensive experience. Students use their time to prepare for an obstacle course filled with math puzzles and clues and compete in an "Amazing Race"-type event as a culminating activity.

MATHEMAGIC

SESSION 1 **JUNE 17-21**
SESSION 2 **JULY 15-19**

9AM - 3PM

Registration **\$475.00**

Does your child love theater (or need to build confidence in front of an audience)? Then Mathemagic is the camp for you. We collaborate with a resident playwright and actor to put on a "Math Play". Participants not only learn amazing math magic tricks, but will also learn about acting and performance as they prepare to put on a full play for parents and friends as a culminating activity.

MATH IN THE REAL WORLD

SESSION 1 **JUNE 24-29**
SESSION 2 **JULY 22-26**

9AM - 3PM

Registration **\$475.00**

This camp is a fun-filled week of math activities and games. It combines the fun of Mathletics with activities that encourage students to solve real-world math problems.



\$100 non-refundable registration fee will be applied to your tuition.

We have a student to staff ratio of 6:1!

Trapezium pays all employees a living wage.

EXTENDED CARE WEEKLY RATES

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	\$30.00
3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	\$50.00
Both AM & PM Care	\$75.00

+ Join us!

Monday

March 25, 2019

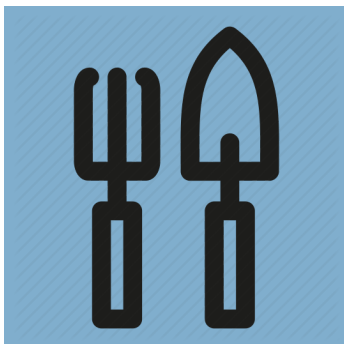
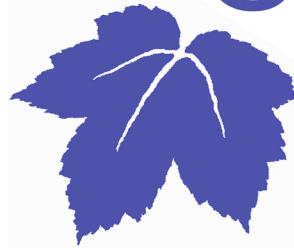
7-8:30 PM

USciences Rosenberger
Hall, Room 102

Meet the Team

friends of

Clark
Park



+ Clark Park, your community backyard

Come out and learn about Friends of Clark Park what we do, why, and how to get involved!

- New membership and benefits
- Health and wellness programs
- Upcoming events

Tell us what you would like at Clark Park



TRAPEZIUM
MATH CLUB

It's time for our Annual

MATHEMAGIC SHOW



SLIME FACTOR

This engaging play follows the Mathletes of Trapezium Math Club as their t.v. show is slated to be cancelled and replaced by a new reality show *Slimefactor*. The Mathletes must prove to the network that kids doing amazing math in their heads is great reality t.v. Will they prevail? This show is a perfect family affair.

Date:

Sunday, March 24th, 2019

Time:

2:00PM, Doors Open at 1:45PM

Place:

Venice Island Performing Arts Center,
7 Lock St., Philadelphia, PA 19127

Cost: \$10 Adults / \$5 Children

**Have you been thinking
about enrolling your child
at Trapezium Math?
Come see what we do!**

For tickets or information, contact
info@trapeziummathclub.com
or 267.292.5341
www.trapeziummathclub.com