



Dear Parents/Guardians,

March 2019

This year's New York State 3-8 assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics will be administered beginning in April. Each grade level will administer the test over a 2 day period.

- **3-8 ELA - April 1- 4 computer based assessments (CBT)**
- **3-8 Mathematics – April 30- May 3 computer based assessments (CBT)**

State assessments are one part of the overall monitoring of your child's achievement. As you know, the District continually collects information about your child's progress gauged against a set of standards. It is essential to us that we are able to monitor in an ongoing fashion, whether or not your child is achieving those standards at a rate that will provide him/her with the knowledge and skills to be successful towards graduation requirements. In addition, the state assessments allow us to benchmark our instructional programs against other districts from across New York State.

The results serve as a part of our district's portfolio of metrics, providing information that will ultimately help us strengthen teaching and learning. Our goal is to instill an overall disposition of perseverance and confidence to tackle tasks that may be challenging. These, we believe, are the lifelong lessons that can be learned from taking these assessments.

As the assessment dates approach, we are asking for your assistance in providing a positive testing experience for your child. In order to perform at his or her cognitive level and ensure accurate results, your child should be well rested and prepared to focus during the assessments.

- *Please try to ensure that your child gets a good night's sleep on the nights preceding the tests.*
- *Provide a healthy breakfast on test days or have your child arrive early to have breakfast at school.*
- ***Be sure your child arrives at school ON TIME on the test days!***
 - *Arriving on time will eliminate disruption to both your child and the other students taking the assessment.*

As a Federal Regulation the District is required to administer state assessments. It is not our intention to advocate for one position or the other regarding NYS 3-8 testing. Our intent is to educate our families regarding the purpose and requirements of the assessments in order to allow our parents/guardians to make informed decisions. If a family determines that they do not want to have their child participate in the assessments, the following guidelines have been established by the district:

1. A letter or e-mail stating your intention to opt out should be addressed and sent to your child's teacher by Monday, March 25, 2019. Please indicate which NYS assessment(s) (i.e. Math, ELA and or Science-if applicable) you are requesting your child not take.
2. On the days of the test, an alternate location will be provided for students to read or do other school work.

Our goal is to use all of our expertise and resources to provide each student with the knowledge and skills needed—not to pass a test—but to prepare for lifelong success. We all understand that assessments are an essential part of any high quality academic program.

Thank you for partnering with us as we strive to give our ER children every opportunity for achievement in all aspects of life.

Sincerely,

Mr. Casey van Harssel
Jr-Sr High Principal

Mr. Kevin Cafalone
Jr. High Assistant Principal

Mrs. Marisa Philp
Elementary Principal