



NORTH ROCKLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Office Building

65 CHAPEL STREET, GARNERVILLE, NEW YORK 10923 (845)942-3000

Heana Eckert
Superintendent of Schools

April 2018

Dear Parents and Families of Grades 3-8 Students:

The purpose of this letter is to share important information about the upcoming New York State assessments in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. ELA will begin on April 11th and math on May 1st. Students in grades 3 through 8 in our school district and all across New York State will be taking these exams.

Once again, the state assessments will be based on the Common Core Learning Standards. The intent of the standards is that students who meet them should have college and career readiness and be globally competitive in the 21st century. The Common Core requires schools and students to drill deeper into key topics, instead of quickly covering many topics. They aim to push students to develop critical thinking skills in a real world context. They require instruction in each grade, kindergarten through grade 12, to build upon skills obtained in previous grades.

These assessments are used by our teachers and administrators to benchmark students' learning progress and improve our curriculum and instruction to better provide them with the learning support they'll need to graduate college and be career ready.

New York's testing program is required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA requires states and their public school districts to administer tests in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3-8 and at least once in grades 10-12. It also requires New York State to administer testing in science at least once during grades 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. In accordance with ESSA, New York State requires each district to have participation of at least 95 percent of a school, as well as subgroups of students that are evaluated in the state's accountability system.

This year, the ELA and Math exams have been reduced from three testing days per subject to only two days. As a result, each test will have substantially fewer questions than in recent years, lessening test fatigue for students and better enabling them to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.

<u>Test</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Make Up Dates</u>
ELA	3-8	April 11 & 12	April 16-18
Math	3-8	May 1 & 2	May 4-9
Science Performance	4 & 8	May 23 - June 1	May 23 - June 1
Science Written	4 & 8	June 4	June 5 & 6

You can play an important role in helping your child to be prepared for these tests by:

1. Presenting a positive attitude toward the tests.
2. Letting your child know that you have confidence in his or her abilities.
3. Ensuring that your child has a good night's rest before the test.
4. Ensuring that your child arrives at school on time.
5. Making sure that your child has a healthy breakfast.

We thank you for your support and assistance in providing a positive learning and testing environment for your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ileana Eckert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Ileana Eckert
Superintendent