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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Each year, New York State requires all students in Grades 3-8 to be assessed in English Language Arts & Mathematics. In addition, students in grades 4 & 8 are required to take the Grade 4 & Grade 8 Science Assessments. The dates for these exams are as follows:

Test	Dates
ELA – Grade 3-8	March 25 and 26
Math – Grades 3-8	April 21 and 22
Science – Grade 4 and 8 (Written Portion)	June 1

Last year we asked our community to consider participating in the exams with a goal of assessing 100% of our students. While participation rates did improve tremendously we were well short of our goal, especially in both of our Junior High Schools. As you review the information we would like you to consider that the new school accountability measures will hold schools accountable for all students in grades 3 through 8, whether they take an assessment or not. This new system has already had an impact on how our schools get categorized on the states list of 'schools in need of an improvement plan'. Unfortunately, Wappingers Jr. High School is now listed as a "Targeted Support and Improvement" school under this new accountability system. Once a school falls into this category, the District must take corrective action steps dictated by the State of New York which can be time and resource intensive. If low participation rates continue we will undoubtedly find more of our schools on this list, and this could have a ripple effect on how our schools are perceived within the community.

Below you will find a summary of the changes that were made to the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests over the past several years.

- **Fewer testing sessions.** In 2018, the Grades 3–8 ELA and Math Tests were reduced from three test sessions per subject to only two sessions per subject, meaning each subject will have two days of testing instead of three. With fewer test sessions, each test will have fewer questions than in past years, lessening test fatigue for students and better enabling them to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.

- The tests continue to be untimed so students who are still working on their exams will be allowed to continue to work, within the confines of the regular school day.
- Test questions reviewed and written by New York State Teachers. Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for the Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms.

Teacher and Principal Evaluation/APPR

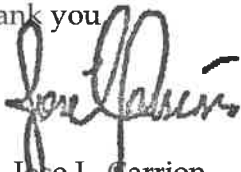
- Student performance on the 2020 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests will have no employment-related consequences for teacher and principal evaluations. This means no teachers or principals in New York State public schools will be affected by the results of the 2020 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests.

Release of Test Questions and Instructional Reports

- Test questions and instructional reports will be released before the end of the school year. Like the past several years, the State Education Department will release 75-percent of questions from the 2020 tests and the instructional reports for educators on or around June 1. [You can view 2019 test questions on EngageNY.](https://www.engageny.org/resource/released-2019-3-8-ela-and-mathematics-state-test-questions) (<https://www.engageny.org/resource/released-2019-3-8-ela-and-mathematics-state-test-questions>)

We thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. You can find more information about the [State tests](#) on the State Education Department's website. (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html>)

Thank you



Mr. Jose L. Carrion
Superintendent of Schools



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