



## Rye City School District

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Dear RCSD Parents and Guardians,

In early April and early May, we will administer the grades three through eight English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics New York State exams. These exams are designed to measure your child's progress in literacy and mathematical understanding as outlined by NY State Learning Standards.

The ELA exams consist of both reading and writing sections to assess reading and writing skills. Students will be asked to respond to multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and extended response questions. The math exams measure understanding of concepts and skills in mathematics. The math exams will also require our students to answer multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and extended response questions.

For additional information, please review the following documents the NY State Education Department has made available for parents:

[The 2019 Grades 3-8 New York State Assessments: What Parents Need to Know](#)

[Parents Frequently Asked Questions About NY State's Annual Grades 3-8 English Language Arts & Math Tests](#)

As was the case last year, the assessments are untimed. Students will take each test in two consecutive sessions. Please see the testing schedule below:

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Grades 3-8 English Language Arts	Wednesday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Thursday, April 4 <sup>th</sup>
Grades 3-8 Mathematics	Wednesday, May 1 <sup>st</sup> and Thursday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>

We, as educators, try to keep these exams in proper perspective. Although scores tell us some things about student achievement, they are only one indicator and they have limitations. Test scores are one data point that we use to measure student progress. We look more closely at in-class and district-level assessments, which we find measure students' ability more accurately and predictably.

We do not want the children to be overly concerned or anxious about the tests, but hope they will approach them with a positive attitude and do their best. You can help by seeing that, except in cases of illness, your students are in attendance on test days, are well-rested, and have a good breakfast. All assessments will begin at the start of the school day. Thank you in advance for having your child to school on time.

The State test results are usually available to the District in late summer. You will receive a letter in the mail with your student's results as soon as they are available from NY State.

To opt your child out of State tests, please submit a physical letter (not an email) to your child's Principal no later than Thursday, March 28th, for ELA and Thursday, April 25th, for Math. Students who opt out of tests should bring a book to school on testing days. We have been notified by the State Education Department that student opt-out numbers will be calculated into this year's participation rate, which is one aspect of a school and district's rating score, and if the numbers place a school and/or district under the 95% participation requirement, a Participation Rate Improvement Plan may be required.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or to your child's Principal.

Thank you,

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