

“A Great Place to Grow and Learn”



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EAGLES IGNITE

Dear Parent,

Soon, the New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests will be administered to our students in grades 3-6. Last year, the number of test sessions for these annual assessments was reduced from three to two; that change remains in effect this year. This means that students will take each subject test over only two testing days instead of three as in past years. Additionally, the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will continue to be untimed.

The ELA exam will be given on April 2 and April 3 and the math exam will be given on April 30 and May 1. These exams will be given on the chromebooks as our district transitioned to Computer Based Testing two years ago and our students seem to attain much better to the assessment given in this format.

Allowing your child to sit for the state tests is important as these assessments are one additional source of data that provides information about your child's academic progress and achievement. Although these tests are only one of several indicators utilized by the district, they do yield valuable information in regard to both student and class strengths and needs.

You as a parent can use your child's report as a tool to guide discussions with the district in regard to additional supports that may be helpful at school. The report also shows how your child does in comparison to others across the state in specific skills

and concepts.

At E.C.S., we have removed the stress of these tests by making assessment a part of what we do all year long with students. Our benchmarks and many of our assessments in grades 3-6 are computer based so students are comfortable with using their chromebooks and the necessary tools for completing assessments successfully.

Throughout life, we are always being assessed or evaluated. Our goal at E.C.S. is to prepare our students for success. These means encouraging them to work through challenges, to think critically, to solve complex problems, to have a positive attitude about both learning and assessment. Sometimes the greatest opportunities require overcoming or working through a challenging task or an anxiety that we might have in regard to a task.

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. We truly hope that all of our students will be given the opportunity to take the state tests this year. That families and students will maintain a positive mindset and a perseverance encouraging children to simply “do their best” because we stand by each student and believe that they have had the educational experiences that allow them to rise to the challenge of these state assessments.

- **Fewer testing sessions.** Last year, 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.** Students who finish may be permitted to hand in their test materials (or submit the test if testing on computer) and leave the room. If so, students should exit quietly so they do not disturb any students still working.
- **Test questions reviewed and written by New York State Teachers.** Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms.

Teacher and Principal Evaluation/APPR

- **Student performance on the 2019 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 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests.

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 for your time.

Sincerely,

Kimberly S. Hromada
Principal/Superintendent