



# CARMEL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**ANDY IRVIN**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

March 14, 2019

Dear Parents,

New York State Assessments for grades 3-8 in ELA, grades 3-8 in Math, and grades 4 and 8 in Science will be administered in April, May, and June (schedule below). Please realize that according to state guidelines, all children enrolled in grades 3-8 are expected to participate in the State of New York Assessments as part of their educational program.

The tests will be given on the following dates for grades 3-8:  
*\*CBT means computer-based testing; PB means paper-based testing*

• English Language Arts	CBT only (all grades) – April 1-8 April 4-11 – CBT Makeup Days
• Mathematics	CBT grades 3-6 – April 30-May 7 May 3-May 10 – CBT Makeup Days PB grades 7-8 – May 1-3 May 6-8 – PB Makeup Days
• Science (Grades 4 & 8 Only)	Administered in two parts: PB Performance Part – May 22-May 31 (PB Makeups given within testing window) PB Written Part – June 3 June 4-June 7 – PB Makeup Days

Students are permitted to read silently after they have completed the test and are encouraged to bring a book with them. Also, please remember that students have unlimited time to complete the assessment as per state regulations.

For the past several years, we have been silent regarding parents exercising their right to withhold their children from the Gr 3-8 state assessment program since the non-participation did not significantly impact the performance outcomes reported for our schools. However, with the implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act starting with the 2017-18 school year, the non-participating students will be included in a new Composite Performance Index that will publicly report school performance.

Non-participating students will have a negative impact on the reported academic performance of the school. Since this new Composite Performance Index will not accurately reflect the performance of our schools, we are encouraging all students to participate in the state assessment program so that our schools are accurately reported.

Additionally, we believe these assessments provide quality information about a child's progress and are used as one of several types of assessments given to inform parents and teachers as they make future instructional and educational decisions. These assessments alone do not determine courses of study, nor are they used as a determinant for accelerated programs or remedial reading/math programs.

If your child does not attend school on the assessment dates, all local policies related to attendance will apply, and your child will be scheduled to take the assessment on the makeup dates. If you desire that your student not participate in testing, I am requesting that you notify your child's principal in writing as soon as possible. Please indicate your child's name, grade, and the specific test or tests you are refusing on behalf of your child. Students who refuse the New York State Assessments will be allowed to read or work independently while the other students are testing.

Andy Irvin  
Superintendent of Schools

*Cultivating Opportunities* 