



TUCKAHOE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Preparing Every Student for Excellence

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Mr. Mark Barnett
Principal

Mr. Scott DeBellis
Assistant Principal

March 29, 2018

Dear Tuckahoe Middle School Parents and Guardians,

The New York State English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments are scheduled for April 11, 12 and May 1, 2 respectively. I would like to provide you with information about the assessments.

The Office of State Assessment has listened to feedback from parents and educators and has made a number of changes to the assessments. In 2018, each assessment will be two days long, instead of three. Additionally, there will be substantially fewer questions on each assessment. The assessments will be untimed, allowing every student to work at a comfortable pace. TMS will not be using the results of the assessments to make course placement decisions. Placement decisions will be based solely upon class performance (grades).

The assessment results are used by TMS educators to identify grade level trends and to engage in a process of adjustment and improvement to our curriculum. Therefore, the assessment results are most useful when we have high levels of student participation. Also, as students progress through TMS and into THS they will increasingly encounter cumulative testing. Regents exams, advanced placement exams, and college entrance exams all come to mind. Few people love tests, but they are a part of life. We want students to learn to take these tests, and to manage the feelings of concern or anxiety that go along with them. We also want to encourage our students to do their best on this, and all challenges.

NYS has published a one page informational document about the state assessments. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

At TMS, testing sessions will begin at approximately 8:00 AM and end at 11:00 am. Students will take the assessments in their team classrooms. Students who need additional time to finish the untimed tests will be relocated to the library at 11:00. Students who complete the assessments before 11:00 will be permitted to read silently. All students should bring an independent reading book. Any student who does not participate in the test will be in one of three locations (based on their grade level) where they will silently complete work or independently read. Students will then be sent to lunch at the usual time, and will follow the typical afternoon schedule.

Sincerely,

Mark Barnett
Principal