

Principal's Log 2.25 NYS Testing

Dear TMS Families,

This week I am sharing information concerning the annual New York State Assessments. The following information was sent to school districts concerning Intermediate Level Testing by NYSED. I have altered small portions to make it locally relevant.

In a few weeks, the New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests will be administered to students. 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 2020 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will continue to be untimed.

The ELA exam will be given on two consecutive school days on March 25 and March 26. The Mathematics exam will be given on April 21 and April 22. The 8th grade Science Written Exam will be given on June 1 (a Science Performance Test component of the 8th Grade Science exam is also administered in Late May).

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.** 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. In Tuckahoe, students may bring a book of their choice to read independently after completing the test and looking over testing materials.**
- **Test questions reviewed and written by New York State Teachers.** Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for

2020 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.

For planning purposes, it is extremely beneficial for us to know well in advance if students are going to refuse to participate in the state testing program. Knowing this information helps us protect the testing environment and ensure the safe running of the school. It is Tuckahoe Middle School policy that this decision must be documented in writing by March 20, 2020. In a note written to me, please indicate student name, grade, and the test(s) that are being refused. 6-8 ELA, 6-8 Math, and 8th-grade science are the scheduled tests.

Sincerely,

Gregory Stiefel, TMS
Principal

<https://twitter.com/GregStiefel>

Be sure to check out our website for PTA flyers, calendar snapshots, and other reminders. http://tms.tuckahoeschools.org/201718_weekly_enewsletter