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BOARD MEMBERS

March 6, 2017

CHRISTINE CAMPEAU

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s) of 3-8 grade students,

ALEXANDRIA HARRIS

In a little less than a month the state assessments for students in grades 3-8 will begin in English Language Arts, Math and Science. Below you will find a table that outlines the dates for each test per grade level:

BRIAN PENROSE

PAUL ROALSVIG

FREDERICK SHORT

Test	Test Dates	Makeup Dates
<b>Grades 3-8 ELA</b> Common Core	Tuesday, March 28- Thursday, March 30	Friday, March 31- Wednesday, April 5
<b>Grades 3-8 Math</b> Common Core	Tuesday, May 2- Friday, May 4	Friday, May 5- Wednesday, May 10
<b>Grades 4 &amp; 8 Science</b> Performance	Wednesday, May 31	Thursday, June 1 - Friday, June 2
<b>Grades 4 &amp; 8 Science Written</b>	Monday, June 5	Tuesday, June 6- Wednesday, June 7

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It is important to note that the annual tests are only one of several measures that are used to gauge your child's academic performance. While no single test provides a complete picture of student achievement, when combined with grades and teacher reports, annual assessments provide important information about a student's progress. The tests also give a measurement of how your child and our school district are doing compared to others across the state and help ensure that students get the supports they need to be successful. All of the assessment scores help the school to identify which students need academic intervention services put in place to ensure their success as they move from elementary school to middle school and then to high school.

The 3-8 ELA and Math tests are aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards. They will take place over three days. On average each test session will take students about 60 minutes to complete, however the tests are untimed. In general, this means that as long as students are productively working they will be allowed as much time as they need, within the confines of the regular school day, to complete the ELA and Math tests.

The 3-8 ELA tests will assess grade level Reading, Writing, and Language Standards using multiple-choice, short-response, and extended-response questions. All questions

will be based on close reading of informational and literary texts drawn from grade-level works. The 3-8 Math tests will assess grade-level mathematical understandings and practices using multiple-choice, short-response, and extended-response questions.


The 4 & 8 Science Performance and Written tests are not aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards, as those standards currently only apply to ELA and Math, but instead are aligned with the New York State Elementary and Intermediate Science Standards. The written tests are untimed, but on average will take 40 minutes for 4th grade students and closer to two hours for the 8th grade students. The Performance tests at both levels consist of three hands-on stations that take about 15 minutes each to complete.

The Grade 4 Written and Performance tests will assess a student's understanding of science learned during grades K-4, while the Grade 8 Written and Performance tests will assess a student's understanding of science learned during grades 5-8. Both the Grades 4 & 8 Written tests will assess students with multiple-choice questions and open-ended responses, and both Grades 4 & 8 Performance tests will include three hands-on practical stations that allow students to apply their scientific knowledge through experiments. Finally, the 8th grade test in particular, provides students with an opportunity to indicate their readiness for Regents level science, which they will be enrolled in during their 9th grade year when they take either Earth Science or Biology.

As you plan your family calendar, please keep the outlined 3-8 ELA, Math, and Science testing dates in mind. As indicated in the chart above, there are makeup dates available, but please try to have your student be present and ready to work each day the testing is taking place. We also ask that you help to ensure that your child is well-rested and eats a healthy breakfast each testing day so that they can give each session their best.

Please feel free to reach out to me or your child's teacher with any questions you have about the state assessments. There are also extensive resources for parents available online at [www.EngageNY.org](http://www.EngageNY.org) and [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov) and [www.nysedregents.org](http://www.nysedregents.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noelle J. Short". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Noelle" being the most prominent part.

Noelle J. Short  
Acting Principal/Superintendent