



WHEELER AVENUE SCHOOL



One West Wheeler Avenue • Valley Stream, New York • 11580 • (516) 568-6140
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Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Gayle Steele, Ed.D.
Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

New York State Assessments in grades 3 - 8 are a required part of a child's public school educational program under both state and federal law. Assessment results are used by the state to determine the success of different student groups and to evaluate its schools and programs. In Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen, we use the results to measure the achievement of our students, and to evaluate our curriculum and programs in order to promote high levels of student achievement. This year the **NYS English Language Arts Assessment will be given April 11th and 12th, and the NYS Mathematics Assessment will be given May 1st and 2nd.**

The New York State Education Department has responded to concerns regarding testing and has made several changes. Over the past two years there has been a greater involvement of educators in the test development process. Since 2015, there has been a decrease in the number of items on the assessments. In 2016 the tests shifted to untimed testing, and this year the tests have been reduced from three days to two.

We understand that some parents request that their child be excluded from NYS Assessments, however the district is required to offer each student the opportunity to take the required state assessments. The district will and must provide each student with this opportunity. The district will do everything that the law and New York State Education Department regulations require to ensure that the state tests are properly administered.

1. There is no "opt out" provision in the law or the regulations.
2. Students who refuse the test will be recorded as "Not Tested" by the District and the State.
3. We will treat all students with respect, and will honor a parent's decision to not have their child participate in the state test:
 - a. We would appreciate prior written notification. This will allow us to create appropriate accommodations for all students on the days of testing.
 - b. A child who arrives at school on a testing day and refuses to take a state assessment will be provided the opportunity to read quietly; please send them with a book on the days of the assessments.
4. On test days, the following will occur when a child who indicates to a proctor that he or she does not want to participate in the test, but for whom no written notice has been received:
 - a. The teacher will notify the main office who will attempt to contact the parents to determine if they give permission for their child not to participate.
 - b. If the parent agrees, the test will be collected and the child will read, either in his/her classroom or in an alternate room depending on space availability.
 - c. If the parent cannot be reached or if the parent does not agree to have the child not participate, the child will remain in the testing room with the expectation that they will participate.

If you have any questions regarding the NYS Assessments, please contact me at (516) 568-6140.

Sincerely,

Gayle Steele, Ed.D.
Principal