



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

February 25, 2020

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 laws, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). 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 to promote high levels of educator and student achievement. This year the **NYS English Language Arts Assessment will be given March 25th and 26th, and the NYS Mathematics Assessment will be given April 21st and 22nd.**

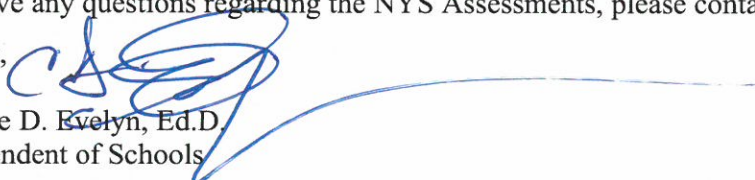
Over the past few years, the New York State Education Department has responded to concerns regarding testing and has facilitated several changes. This has included greater involvement of educators in the test development process, a decrease in the number of items on the assessments thereby reducing the test from three to two days, and the tests shifted to being untimed.

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. Our 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. Students who do not participate in the test will be recorded as "Not Tested" by the District and the State.
2. 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. A child who arrives at school on a testing day with prior notification indicating planned non-participation in a state assessment will be provided the opportunity to read quietly; please send them with a book on the days of the assessments.
3. 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 your school's principal.

Sincerely,


Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools