

HOLLAND PATENT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents,

Every spring, Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Assessments are administered to students across NY State. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the New York State Education Department has taken measures to provide flexibility in the state's testing requirements. This year, only Session 1 of the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Assessments will be administered to our students. In addition, only the Written Test component of the Grades 4 and 8 Science Tests will be administered.

The ELA assessment will be administered April 19-29 and the math assessment will be administered May 3-14. Grades 4 and 8 science performance assessment will be administered June 7-11.

The New York State Assessments measure how our schools and District is progressing with the learning standards and ensuring our students are on track to graduate from high school possessing the necessary skills to be successful in college and the workplace. We use the results from the assessments to help us evaluate our instructional design which guides our curriculum and also determine what additional supports or academic interventions are needed so every student can be successful at all levels. This data will also factor in developing plans to help us improve our professional development plans for next year and continue to utilize our best practices to ensure academic success for all students.

Although these tests are mandated and a 95% participation rate is required from each District, I would like to share how they can be used as teaching tools. Students can self-reflect on whether or not they are making progress and achieving the individual goals they set at the beginning of the year. Test taking is an important life skill. Building test-taking skills means greater academic confidence so as they grow older tests are easier to manage. Well-developed test-taking skills help students progress through school, and then of course the workplace.

Prior test questions and further information about these tests can be attained by calling your child's principal or teacher or by visiting the NYS Department of Education website at www.engageny.org/3-8.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jason P. Evangelist
Superintendent of Schools.