

CHERRY VALLEY-SPRINGFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOL

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March 30, 2018

Dear Parent,

In a few weeks, the New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests will be administered to students. Beginning this year, the number of test sessions for these annual assessments will be reduced from three days to two days. Additionally, like the 2016 and 2017 tests, the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will continue to be untimed.

The ELA will be given April 11 – April 12, and the math May 1 – May 2.

Below you will find a summary of the changes that were made to the 2018 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests.

- **Two testing days per subject.** The 2018 Grades 3–8 ELA and Math Tests have been reduced from three test sessions per subject to only two sessions per subject this year, meaning each subject will have two days of testing instead of three. With fewer test sessions, each test will have fewer questions than in recent 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.** Students who finish may be permitted to hand in their test materials (or submit the test if testing on computer) and leave the room. If so, students should exit quietly so they do not disturb any students still working.
- **Test questions reviewed and written by New York State Teachers.** Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms. This year, the assessments will also feature many test questions written by New York State teachers specifically for the annual New York State tests. The future goal is for all test questions to be written by NYS educators.

Teacher and Principal Evaluation/APPR

- **Student performance on the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests will have no employment-related consequences for teacher and principal evaluations.** In December 2015, the Board of Regents approved a moratorium on using student scores on these exams for educators' consequential evaluation scores. This means no teachers or principals in New York State public schools will be affected by the results of the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests.

Release of Test Questions and Instructional Reports

- **Test questions and instructional reports will be released before the end of the school year.** Like last year, the State Education Department will release 75-percent of questions from the 2018 tests and the instructional reports for educators on or around June 1. You can view [2017 test questions](https://www.engageny.org/3-8) (<https://www.engageny.org/3-8>) on EngageNY.

Computer-Based Testing

- **Computer-based State assessments.** We chose to administer the 2018 **Grade 4** ELA and Math Tests on the computer. The computer-based test will have the same questions as the paper version but students will take the test on a Chromebook. Our plan is to eventually administer all of Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests on computers.
- **Stronger instructional tools.** The State Education Department is helping districts begin to transition to computer-based testing (CBT), which has the potential to make the assessments stronger instructional tools and will make it possible to get test results back sooner.
- **The move to CBT.** The State plans to have additional districts utilize CBT next year. The long-term plan is to have all districts using CBT for annual state tests.

You can find more information about the [State tests](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html) (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html>) on the State Education Department's website.

We hope that you will support us in reaching our goal of 100% participation on the NYS 3-8 assessments. Testing refusals will not be provided a separate classroom. We see the challenge of these tests as an opportunity for our students to be their best. Patriots don't run away from challenges, they run over them.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

TheriJo Climenhaga
Superintendent

Bonnie Georgi
Dir. of Special Ed.

Nicole Knapp
Principal

Kevin Keane
Principal