



VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 24

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Dr. Don Sturz
Superintendent of Schools

March, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our grades 3-6 students will be taking the New York State Assessments. Testing is an integral part of each student's education at every level. We utilize the results from these assessments to inform instruction.

In addition to a good night's sleep and a good breakfast to help students prepare for these tests, I want to share some other important tips that will help your child to feel as confident and comfortable as possible on testing days. Some students become anxious when tackling standardized tests. While it is important to acknowledge the value of a test, it is equally important to remind them that a test is simply one measure of performance. The more relaxed and prepared students are about an exam, the more likely they are to perform their best and truly demonstrate their best learning. The New York State Standards emphasize critical thinking, careful reading of fiction and non-fiction, writing, effective communication of ideas, and real-world problem solving in mathematics.

We encourage parents/guardians to have their child take the tests. If for some reason you decide not to have your child take the test, then a written letter is required to be sent to your child's principal. Please be reminded that if your child takes Day 1 of any of the assessments, it would not be wise to remove them from the additional days of testing since your child will still receive a score based on whatever part was completed. Parent/Guardian requests must be received before the first day of testing.

English Language Arts Assessments will be given April 2nd through April 3rd Mathematics Assessments will be given May 1st through May 2nd.

With the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a law that requires that 95% of students in each tested subgroup take the appropriate state tests, we are welcoming your decision to test your child and assist with this mandate. The 95% participation rate is included in the indicators measured annually for school districts to be labeled as in good standing or as targeted schools in need of improvement.

The most important factor is for us to have information to guide instruction. Your child's teacher and principal can answer any additional questions you may have on this topic.

Sincerely,

Dr. Don Sturz
Superintendent of Schools
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