



Port Jervis Middle School

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Dear Parents / Guardians,

In a few weeks, the New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests will be administered to students. Last year, the number of test sessions for these annual assessments was reduced from three to two; that change remains in effect this year. Additionally, the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will continue to be untimed.

At PJMS the ELA exam will be given on two consecutive school days April 2nd and 3rd, and the math exam will be given on two consecutive school days May 1st and 2nd. The 8th graders will complete the paper-based assessments while 7th graders will utilize computer-based testing (CBT).

NYSED continues to implement changes to the assessments, making these assessments more streamlined, student-friendly and more valid tools to evaluate our students' academic growth.

The changes made to the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests over the past several years include:

- **Fewer testing sessions.** Last year, the Grades 3–8 ELA and Math Tests were reduced from three test sessions per subject to only two sessions per subject. With fewer test sessions, each test has fewer questions than in past years. This helps lessen test fatigue for students and better enables 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 are allowed to continue to work within the confines of the regular school day.** Students who finish are permitted to hand in their test materials or (submit the test on computer) while students who are still working may continue to do so!

- **Test questions have been reviewed and written by New York State Teachers.** Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests.

- **Student performance on the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests have no employment-related consequences for teacher and principal evaluations.** This means no teachers or principals in New York State public schools will be affected by the results of the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests.

- **Computer-based State assessments.** The computer-based test will have the same questions as the paper version but students will take the test on a computer or Chromebook.

- **Test questions and instructional reports will be released before the end of the school year.** Like the past several years, the State Education Department will release 75-percent of questions from the 2019 tests and the instructional reports for educators on or around June 1. The 2018 test questions are available on EngageNY. <https://www.engageny.org/3-8>

Please call PJMS Main Office or Guidance Office if you have any questions about these assessments. We are always available to help.

Also, you can find more information about the state tests on the New York State Education Department's website. <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html>