



PORT JERVIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

“Opting In” to NYS Assessments

Each year, the grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics tests are administered to students across New York State. Annual ELA and math tests for students in grades 3-8 are required by the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) of 2015. Students in New York State also participate in the grade 8 Science Assessment.

At PJMS, we are pleased to report that the student participation rate has been steadily increasing over the past few years. This increase is an indicator that NYSED has responded to parent and teacher concerns and has made critical changes in the tests and administration of the tests.

Changes include:

- **Reduced test sessions**

The number of test sessions has been reduced from three to two days.

- **Unlimited timing**

The tests are now untimed, meaning that as long as students are working productively, they may have as much time as they need to complete the tests.

In addition to those positive changes, the faculty and administration of PJMS want to remind parents of the following:

- Students are not able to opt-out of **Regents exams**. Therefore our PJMS assessments are a great opportunity for your child to gain the **experience** of a structured testing environment.
- The **wording** of **test questions** on the 7th and 8th grade exams reflects that of the Regents, so experience with these assessments is quite beneficial.
- **Student schedules** and **course placement** are not at all based on NYS assessment results (we receive the students' score long after our master schedule is created)
- **Teacher** evaluations /APPR are no longer linked to testing results

It is extremely important that we work toward 100% participation in the NYS assessments. PJMS students are prepared to take the tests, and as parents, we hope you will allow your child to participate.

If you have any questions or concerns about assessments, grades or class placement, please feel free to contact our administrators, Guidance Department or teachers.