



VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

75 Horton Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11581-1499

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Mr. Unal Karakas

Superintendent of Schools

March 18, 2024

Dear Valley Stream 24 Families,

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As we approach the upcoming New York State English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science Exams for grades 3-6 in the next few weeks, we want to ensure that you and your child feel supported and informed throughout this process. We recognize that the New York State assessments are just one measure of student performance, and that one assessment alone does not define our students' performance. We do use results, in addition to other assessment tools, to help us tailor our support to meet your child's individual needs.

It is understandable that some students may feel anxious about these exams, but it's crucial to remind them that students all have their unique strengths and abilities that shine through in multiple ways. Our focus is on fostering a positive learning environment where every child can thrive, regardless of test scores.

In alignment with New York State Standards, our curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, literacy, communication skills, and problem-solving, ensuring that your child is well-prepared for success both in and out of the classroom. As such, please rest assured that the State assessments are not used as the sole basis for any program or placement decisions. Our teachers and staff do an incredible job day-to-day providing standards-based instructional support. We only use the data gathered to provide targeted support and enrichment opportunities, tailored to your child's specific needs and learning journey.

Here are the testing dates for this year's State Assessments:

- **English Language Arts Assessments**: April 11th and 12th for grades 3, 4, and 6. Grade 5 will have a computer-based assessment on April 15th and 16th.
- **Mathematics Exam**: May 7th and 8th for grades 3, 4, and 6. Grade 5 will have a computer-based assessment on May 9th and 10th.
- **Science Exam for Grade 5**: A computer-based assessment will take place on May 2nd.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming State Assessments, please do not hesitate to reach out to your building's principal.

Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education journey!

Warmly,

Unal Karakas

Superintendent of Schools

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