



## VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

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Dr. Unal Karakas

*Superintendent of Schools*

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Dear Valley Stream 24 Families,

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. We do use state assessment 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 important to remind our students that they all have unique strengths and abilities that shine through in multiple ways. Our focus is on always fostering a positive learning environment where every child can thrive.

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 use the data gathered to provide targeted support and enrichment opportunities, tailored to your child's specific needs and learning journey.

This year's State Assessment dates are as follows:

- **English Language Arts Exam**: Grades 4-6 will have a computer-based assessment on April 24th and 25th. April 29th and 30th will be a paper-based assessment for Grade 3.
- **Mathematics Exam**: Grades 4-6 will have a computer-based assessment on May 5th and 6th. May 7th and 8th will be a paper-based assessment for Grade 3.
- **Science Exam for Grade 5**: A computer-based assessment will take place on May 1st.

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,

Dr. Unal Karakas  
Superintendent of Schools

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