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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Assessment season is quickly approaching, and we wanted to take this opportunity to share information with parents and families about the upcoming New York State Education (NYSED) assessments for grades 3-8. The ELA and Math assessments have been reduced to two days each and the following assurances are also applicable:

- Students will be given time necessary to complete the tests at their own pace.
- Test questions will be more concise and grade-level appropriate, as they were developed and reviewed by New York State teachers and not a third-party test vendor.
- Assessment results inform instructional practices and curriculum with no impact to students' transcripts, school records or future placement.
- Teachers and principals are not evaluated based on their students' 3-8 NYSED ELA and Math results.

As administrators, teachers, parents, community members, or civic leaders, we all want what is best for students. We remain steadfast in providing our children with an outstanding education and positioning them for success. As a result, students in grades 5-8 will be taking Computer-Based Tests (CBT) for ELA and Math. This decision aligns with our digital conversion initiative and we feel that our students will respond well to this format.

In Gates Chili, we continue to advocate on behalf of our children and faculty as it relates to the NYSED assessments and their relevancy and usage. The results help us to identify strengths and weaknesses in our curriculum, so we can make any necessary modifications. We recognize that parents have a choice and ask that you contact us should you have any questions. If you determine your child will take the assessments, we want to reiterate again that our faculty works tirelessly to ensure that your student receives an outstanding, well-rounded education, and do not measure their skills or knowledge based on one assessment.

Additional information and resources on these assessments may be found for your review at www.EngageNY.org or www.nysed.gov. If you decide that your child will not take these assessments, best practice is to notify the school prior to the start of testing. Please submit this intent in writing via email or mail to your school's principal by March 29, 2019.

For your convenience, please find the 2018-2019 NYSED assessment calendar for grades 3-8 listed below, and note that all exams take place in the morning.

• ELA	o Grades 3 & 4 – April 4 and April 5 (Paper-Based Testing)
	o Grade 5 – April 2 and 3 (Computer-Based Testing)
	o Grades 6-8 – April 4 and April 5 (Computer-Based Testing)
• Math	o Grades 3 & 4 – May 2 and May 3 (Paper-Based Testing)
	o Grade 5 – April 30 and May 1 (Computer-Based Testing)
	o Grades 6-8 – May 2 and May 3 (Computer-Based Testing)
• Science	o Grade 4 & 8 – May 22 – May 31 (Performance-Based Testing)
	o Grade 4 & 8 – June 3 (Paper-Based Testing)

Thank you in advance for your consideration and commitment to your child's education.

Sincerely,

Carol B. Stehm

"Together we teach and inspire excellence for all learners"