

## What are the New York State Tests?

### Introduction:

- Students in third through fifth grade will take the NYS ELA and Math assessments
- Certain English Language Learners are exempt from taking the NYS ELA
- Fourth grade students will take the NYS Science Assessment. A future workshop will be held in the near future

### Important Dates:

- ELA – Wednesday, March 25th & Thursday, March 26th
- Math – Wednesday, April 22nd & Thursday, April 23rd
- Spring Recess – April 9th – April 17th (please avoid extending your family vacation beyond these dates)

### ELA - Timing:

- Tests are untimed
- Students will be provided with as much time as necessary to complete each test session within regular school hours
- Students may work for as long as they need, as long as they are working productively
- Students in grades 3-4 will likely need approximately 60-70 minutes to complete session 1 and 70-80 minutes to complete session 2
- Students in grade 5 will likely need approximately 80-90 minutes for session 1 and 70-80 minutes for session 2
- If students are still working, but most of their class has completed the test, they may be relocated to another room to finish

### ELA - Questions:

- Test is designed to assess both reading and language standards
- Passages will be both fictional and non-fiction authentic texts
- Multiple Choice (session 1) –
  - Grades 3-4 will have 4 passages to read with 24 questions
  - Grade 5 will have 5 passages to read with 35 questions



### What are the New York State Tests?

- Short Response (session 2) -
  - Grades 3-5 will have 3 passages to read with 6 questions
  - Students will be asked to make an inference based on their analysis of the passage, state it in their own words, and then provide two pieces of text-based evidence to support their answer.
  - Students will be asked to write in complete sentences
  - Responses should require no more than three or four sentences
  - Students who answer the question only using details from the text will not receive full credit
  
- Extended Response (session 2) -
  - Students demonstrate their ability to write a coherent essay using textual evidence to support their ideas
  - Grade 3 requires comprehension and analysis of an individual text
  - Grades 4-5 require students to read and analyze paired texts. Paired texts are related by theme, genre, tone, time period, or other characteristics
  - Many extended response questions will ask students to express a position and support it with text-based details
  - Responses will be evaluated based on writing standards and a student's command of evidence to defend their point

#### Math - Timing:

- Tests are untimed
- Students will be provided with as much time as necessary to complete each test session within regular school hours
- Students may work for as long as they need, as long as they are working productively
- Students in grade 3 will likely need approximately 55-65 minutes to complete session 1 and 60-70 minutes to complete session 2
- Students in grade 4 will likely need approximately 65-75 minutes to complete session 1 and 65-75 minutes to complete session 2
- Students in grade 5 will likely need approximately 80-90 minutes for session 1 and 70-80 minutes for session 2
- If students are still working, but most of their class has completed the test, they may be relocated to another room to finish



## What are the New York State Tests?

### Math - Questions:

- Some test questions target more than one standard or assess an entire cluster
- Many individual questions assess September to April standards in conjunction with May to June standards from past grades
- If students are directed to show work or provide an explanation, a correct answer with no work shown or no explanation provided receives no credit
- No calculators allowed
- Tools given: 3rd grade – ruler; 4th grade – ruler & protractor, 5th grade – ruler, protractor and reference sheet
  
- Multiple Choice –
  - Grades 3 will have 25 questions (session 1) and 8 questions (session 2)
  - Grades 4-5 will have 30 questions (session 1) and 8 questions (session 2)
  - Four answer choices
  - Many questions require multiple steps to solve
  - Distractors will all be based on plausible missteps
  
- Short Response (session 2) -
  - Grades 3-5 will have 6 questions
  - Students are required to complete a task and show their work
  - will be asked to make an inference based on their analysis of the passage, state it in their own words, and then provide two pieces of text-based evidence to support their answer.
  - Students will be asked to write in complete sentences
  - Responses should require no more than three or four sentences
  - Students who answer the question only using details from the text will not receive full credit
  
- Extended Response (session 2)
  - Students show their work in completing two or more tasks or a more extensive problem
  - Allow students to show their understanding of mathematical procedures, conceptual understanding, and application
  - Assesses student reasoning and the ability to critique the arguments of others



## What are the New York State Tests?

### Test Taking Tips:

- Do not put undue pressure on your child
- Make sure they get a good night's sleep
- Make sure they eat breakfast the day of the test
- Do not send your child to take the test if they are not feeling well (make up days)
- Students need three sharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Once the test is over, it is a normal day and the test is just a small part of that day

### Ways to Help Your Child at Home:

- Provide a quiet space for homework
- Set up routines and reinforce good habits – homework time, reading time, etc.
- Oversee technology – limit social media, gaming, and Youtube
- Encourage your child to read aloud to you
- Visit your local library and borrow books and magazines in different genres
- Be a good listener – ask your child about their activities at school
- Reinforce the skills – e.g. math skills through cooking and shopping, writing notes, etc.
- Give your child as many different experiences as possible – museums, the zoo, shows, etc.

### Links:

- <https://www.engageny.org/resource/released-2019-3-8ela-and-mathematics-state-test-questions>
- <https://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/2019/2019-faq-for-parents-3-8-tests.pdf>
- <http://mc-14193-39844713.us-east-1.elb.amazonaws.com/parent-and-family-resources>
- <https://www.engageny.org/videos-for-parents>
- <https://ps174.org>

## *PS 174 Philosophy on Testing:*

*It's just another day to show what you know!*

