



FORT EDWARD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Richard R. DeMallie, Ed. D.
Superintendent of School

Erin Russo
Pre-K - 12 Principal

Joyce Long
Director of Pupil Services

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This spring, our school will administer the NYS Grades 3-8 assessment in ELA (April 20 & 21), Mathematics (May 2 & 3), and the NYS Grade 8 Science assessment (performance test on May 24, written test on June 5).

Why do we give these tests?

- The results of these tests help to guide our instruction. For example, if most students in 3rd grade get a particular question wrong, we will then look to see how we can improve our instruction in that area for next year's group of 3rd graders. Conversely, if most 3rd grade students get a particular question correct, we know that we are providing effective instruction in that area.
- The results of these tests help the teachers in the upcoming grade get a good read of where our students are. Is the group coming up lacking some skills that need to be developed before moving forward? Is the upcoming group solid in their fundamentals, and so have some "wiggle room" to do some projects?
- The results of these tests, paired with iReady scores, report card grades, and teacher observations, help us determine which students would benefit from some extra help. We want to make sure that we are providing extra help to all of our students who show a need. The goal is to provide extra help as early as possible, so students will require less assistance in high school.
- These tests are excellent practice for the Regents exams. Regents exams are required by NYS in order to graduate from high school. There is no "opting out" of those exams. These 3-8 assessments are a great way to prepare students for these standardized tests.
- These tests are considered "low stakes", meaning that they are not attached to a child's academic average. Your child will not receive higher or lower grades on their report card based upon these tests.

Other important things to know:

- These tests are untimed; your child will be able to take as long as they need to complete the test, within the confines of the school day.
- The test questions were developed by educators from across NY state.
- You will receive a score report, detailing how your child performed in each area of the tests, and what you can do to best support your child's learning.

I encourage all students to take these state assessments. If you have questions, please feel free to call or email me at erusso@fortedward.org.

Respectfully,

Erin Russo
PK-12 Principal