



TUXEDO UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nicole Scariano
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, IA
GEORGE F. BAKER HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, IA

Paul Brown
GEORGE GRANT MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Dear Tuxedo Families,

Every spring, the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science Assessments are administered to students across New York State. The tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and help to ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed for success in college and the modern workplace. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there have been a number of changes to the administration of these tests.

Save the Date: 2021 3-8 State Assessment Dates

1. **ELA:**
 - a. Grades 3-5: April 22nd
 - b. Grades 6-8: April 28th
2. **Math:**
 - a. Grades 3-5: May 13th
 - b. Grades 6-8: May 12th
3. **Science: 4th and 8th Grade Written Test:**
 - a. June 7th

At this time, the U.S. Department of Education chose not to approve New York's waiver request to forgo this year's 3-8 State Testing. Due to this, students who are in grades 3-8 will be assessed in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. New York State has given schools much more flexibility than in past years in the scheduling of the State Assessments. Please see the above dates, as these will be when the assessments will be administered. Below is how the Grades 3-8 State Assessments will be scheduled.

For this years NYS 3-8 Assessments, the following protocol will be followed:

1. State Assessments will only be administered to students who are in-person.
 - a. **Students who are on 100% Remote Instruction for the entire testing period will be exempt.**
2. Only Session 1 of the grades 3-8 assessments in Math and ELA will be required. A shortened form of the test will be administered. Students will take the test on their hybrid in-person day.
3. Only the written test component of the Grades 4 and 8 Science Tests will be held; the performance tests will not be administered. Students will take the test on their hybrid in-person day.

Families will still have the option to have their child "opt out" of the NYS 3-8 State Assessments. If you chose to have your child "opt out" please complete the form below. For planning purposes, we ask that families who choose this option return the form by **April 20th 2021.**

Thank you in advance for assisting in making these days run as smoothly as possible.

Paul Brown

Principal

George Grant Mason Elementary School

Tuxedo UFSD



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Dear Tuxedo Families,

New York State ELA, Math and Science Assessments for grades 3-8 will soon be upon us. Federal and New State regulations require that students in public schools take state assessments administered for their grade level. However, New York State allows parents the ability to have their students opt out of the 3-8 state testing. If you so chose to have your child opt out of the tests a protocol has been designed to honor your request.

Prior to finalizing your decision to request that your child not participate in the New York State 3-8 State Testing, it is important to understand the ramifications of this refusal.

- The NYS Assessments results are informative. The District uses the assessment results to determine how we can be more effective in helping students achieve high academic standards that better prepare them for the future.
- State Assessment scores may be used as one of several measures in determining which children receive additional academic support.
- State assessment scores may be used as one of several measures in determining which children are placed in advances and/or honors programs.

Based on the information above, the District, in support of the New York Department of Education, encourages that all students “opt in” and sit for our state testing. If you are determined to have your child not participate, please complete the attached form and submit it to the principal in a timely fashion so that we may take the appropriate steps to ensure that all students have optimal conditions to either test or not test. Please note that a separate form must be submitted for **each child**.

On testing days, there are two options that families have:

1. Students who opt out are permitted to participate in virtual instruction and participate in asynchronous learning on days that the State Assessment is being administered. Families also have the option to send their children to school for in-person instruction.
2. If your child is in school and opts out of the State Assessments they will be supervised in a separate location.
 - a. During this time students will be provided educational material.
 - b. All students, whether testing or not, will be provided time to eat lunch
 - c. Once testing is complete, your child will return to their class.

Thank you,

Paul Brown

Principal

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Parent Opt-Out Request

I have reviewed related information regarding the NYS Assessments provided by the District. I understand the rationale for the test results to be used as a tool for informational purposes as listed below, but may not be limited to the following.

- The NYS Assessments results are informative. The District uses the assessment results to determine how we can be more effective in helping students achieve high academic standards that better prepare them for the future.
- State Assessment scores may be used as one of several measures in determining which children receive additional academic support.
- State assessment scores may be used as one of several measures in determining which children are placed in advances and/or honors programs.

Student Name: _____

Student Grade: _____

I hereby request that my child, named above, not participate in the following assessment(s) **(Please Circle All That Apply)**

English Language Arts (ELA) Mathematics Science (Grades 4 and 8 only)

Parents who have decided to opt their child out of the State Assessments have the option to have their child attend school in-person or participate in remote asynchronous learning from home. **(Please Check One)**

- ☐ I plan to have my child participate in remote asynchronous learning from home on State Assessment days
- ☐ I plan to have my child attend school in-person on State Assessment days

*Note: That if you plan to have your child participate in asynchronous learning at home on State Assessment days, a doctor's note is not required to return to school

After the submission of this letter all families will receive confirmation of receipt of your plan to opt your child out of State Assessments from the main office.

I understand the information listed above. I further understand that my child will be supervised in a separate location until testing is complete. They will return to class when testing is completed for the day.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



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