

# Brunswick Central School District

Brittonkill

Tamarac Elementary School

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March 18, 2022

Dear Grades 3-5 Parents:

This letter is a reminder to parents that the New York State (NYS) English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science exams are being administered this spring on the following dates:

## **Grades 3-5 2022 Testing Schedule:**

- English Language Arts (ELA) will be administered on Tuesday, March 29 and Wednesday, March 30
- Mathematics will be administered on Tuesday, April 26 and Wednesday, April 27
- Science (4th grade only) will be administered on Tuesday, May 24 and Monday, June 6

Tamarac Elementary students in grades 3-5 will participate in testing in the morning of each scheduled testing day. We will make arrangements for students who need additional time after their lunch breaks to continue working on their tests.

Even in "normal times" we understand and respect the concerns some parents and guardians may have about state testing. This year continues to present enormous challenges for our students, teachers, parents/guardians and community. Testing may be one of the last things you expect to think about; however we are at the point in the year where we are once again charged with faithfully administering exams to our students in grades 3-8. State test results are one important data element that, when considered in combination with other learning data about our students, informs what we are teaching and what students know and can communicate in relation to NYS learning standards. We believe that NYS assessments:

- provide important data that is used to improve education for all students
- are a measure of **our** performance as a school district, not your child's
- will provide information on how our students have performed through the pandemic and how to best allocate any state funds designated to students due to "loss of learning."

Annual testing in grades 3-8 for ELA and math is required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Each state must ensure that 95% of students in each public school district participate yearly in the required assessments. While there are consequences for schools and school districts with less than 95% participation in required assessments, there are **no** consequences for individual students whose parents choose not to have them participate in these assessments. Tamarac Elementary School students whose parents choose not to have their child participate in required State assessments will be permitted to read quietly or complete a quiet activity while the assessments are taking place, but please understand that we do not plan

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alternate instruction or special activities for such students during this time as it is the expectation that we fulfill our responsibilities in assessing all students in grades 3-5 during the scheduled testing dates. Students who happen to be absent during the test administration dates will have the opportunity to make up testing on designated days.

Over the past few years the New York State Education Department has listened to parents and educators to make significant changes to the Grades 3-8 ELA and Math assessments (e.g. fewer test questions, involving more NYS teachers in the selection of questions, etc.). As has always been our practice at Brunswick, we believe every student should take the assessments and do the best they can. Here are a few tips to help students do their best:

- **Get enough sleep** - According to the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), school aged children (6-12 years old) are recommended to have 9-12 hours of sleep each night in order to perform at their physical and psychological best.
- **Eat a healthy breakfast** - Start the day with a meal that includes complex carbohydrates and protein so energy lasts well into the day.
- **Exercise** - Exercise each day helps prepare both the body and the mind.
- **Don't sweat it** - We only ask that students do their best.
- **Plan ahead** - Get to school on time.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact us at (518) 279-4600 x2002. We want to ensure you have all the information you need on this important issue. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Dr. Angelina Maloney  
Superintendent



Richard Pogue  
Tamarac Elementary Principal