

VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT

JOHN P. XANTHIS

March 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to share with you changes that have been made by the New York State Education Department regarding the 3-8 assessments and learning standards.

- A decrease in the number of test questions
- A shift to untimed testing
- A greater involvement of educators in the test development process
- A new test vendor- Questar, and
- Allowance of the "tests read" accommodation for students with disabilities (as per their IEP/504 plan)

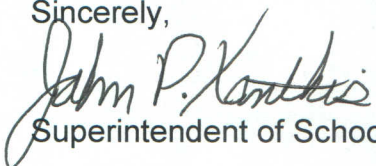
In addition, student performance on the 3-8 assessments is no longer linked to a Teacher or Principal evaluation, the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR).

Participating in the 3-8 assessments in ELA and Math helps to provide our teachers with information regarding how your child is meeting the New York State standards. It is our expectation that all of our 3-8 students will participate in the NYS assessments this school year so that this information can continue to strengthen our teaching and help determine what supports your child may need. Please remember that state assessments at the high school level are mandated to earn a diploma.

The New York State Learning Standards are currently under review. Parents, teachers and administrators were given opportunities to provide feedback last year.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or principal. We will continue to "Strive for Excellence" each and every day, and we thank you for your on-going support in your child's academic success.

Sincerely,


Superintendent of Schools

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