Glens Falls City School District
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Paul Jenkins, *Superintendent* • Robert Yusko, *Director of Business* • Trent Clay, *Director of Curriculum*

March 24, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Beginning in three weeks, our elementary and middle school students will begin taking the 3-8 NYS Assessments in ELA, Math and Science. Testing days are as follows:

- **Grades 3—8 English Language Arts: Tuesday, April 5—Thursday, April 7**
  - ELA make-ups: Friday, April 8—Tuesday, April 12
- **Grades 3—8 Math: Wednesday, April 13—Friday, April 15**
  - Math make-ups: Monday, April 18—Wednesday, April 20
- **Grades 4 and 8 Science (Performance): Wednesday, May 25—Friday, June 3**
  - Science Performance make-ups: Must be given within the testing window.
- **Grades 4 and 8 Science (Written): Monday, June 6**
  - Science Written make-ups: Tuesday, June 7—Wednesday, June 8

The NYS Education Department has taken significant steps to address testing concerns expressed by parents, students, and teachers in an effort to encourage greater participation in the State assessments. The New York State Education Department has hired a new company to help develop future assessments, **reduced the number of test questions, and allowed for extra time if needed**. And for the next four years, there will be no consequences for any teacher in New York because of how his or her students perform on the 3-8 assessments.

Also, individual student **scores are not included on the student's official transcript** or in the student's permanent record, and are being provided to the student and parents simply for diagnostic purposes. This procedure is in effect through 2018.

We ask you to carefully consider the significant differences in this 2016 testing climate and protocol. If your child didn't participate in the ELA or math tests last year—or might not this year—we respectfully urge you to consider supporting their participation in the state tests next month.

We are well aware of the emotional and political sensitivity around state testing, and we simply want you to have the most complete information possible to frame your family's decision about participation. If you have any questions about testing, please do not hesitate to contact your child's principal or reach out to me directly. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Paul Jenkins, Superintendent