

# John F. Kennedy Middle School



April 12, 2021

**Dear John F. Kennedy Middle School Families:**

In accordance with guidance from the New York State Department of Education (NYSED), we will be administering the NYS State assessments in grades 6-8. **The NYS testing window is Monday, April 19 - Thursday, April 29 for English Language Arts and Monday, May 3 - Friday, May 14 for mathematics. The testing window for the Grade 8 Science Written test is Monday, June 7 - Friday, June 11.**

*Upon arrival at school, students should report to their Kennedy Crew classrooms.*

*Please see testing schedule below:*

## English Language Arts

Instructional Group	Testing Date
Group A (Monday, Tuesday)	*Monday, April 19
Group B (Thursday, Friday)	*Thursday, April 22

## Mathematics

Instructional Group	Testing Date
Group A (Monday, Tuesday)	*Monday, May 3
Group B (Thursday, Friday)	*Thursday, May 6

## Grade 8 Science Written Test

Instructional Group	Testing Date
Group A (Monday, Tuesday)	*Monday, June 7
Group B (Thursday, Friday)	*Thursday, June 10

*\*Please note, students who are absent may take the assessment during a make-up testing session upon their return to school.*

The NYSED has made it clear that schools are not required to bring students into the building to participate in assessments if students are receiving fully remote instruction during the testing windows. Parents of fully remote students, however, can choose to allow their child to take the assessment. **If your child is participating in our fully remote instructional model and you would like your child to participate in State assessments, please send me an email by Wednesday, April 14th at 4:00 pm.** This will allow us to make the necessary arrangements for your child to take the State assessments. You may also call the main office to speak with me directly. If we do not hear from parents/guardians of our 100% remote students, we will assume you are not interested in having your child take this year's State assessments.

Please note, there have been several changes made to the format of the NYS assessments this year. For specific information on these changes, please reference the letter Mrs. Galenski sent to families on March 26th. A link to this letter can be found on the website under the April 2021 Principal's Message.

Additionally, if your child is enrolled in our Hybrid instructional model and you would like to opt-out of the State assessments, please submit to me a letter in writing requesting for your child to opt-out of the test. In the letter, please be sure to include your child's name, grade level, your printed name and signature. These letters must be received prior to the test administration. Students who refuse the test are able to stay in the classroom with their peers and read a physical book.

Finally, a student may not have access to electronic devices such as a chromebook while in the testing room. **We advise all students to leave their personally owned electronic devices (cell phones) home on testing days. Students who bring their personal electronic devices (cell phones) to school on testing days may be asked to submit their cell phone to their classroom teacher/test proctor prior to testing.**

We ask that parents/guardians ensure their children are well-rested, on time, and arrive prepared to do their best. As a school, we will be well-organized and prepared in an effort to reduce test anxiety among students. Lastly, breakfast will be available to all students prior to taking the test.

Thank you for reviewing this important letter. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns.

Regards,



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