



March 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We in Plainview-Old Bethpage School District pride ourselves on the high quality education we offer our students. We utilize multiple assessment data from our students to inform our instructional decision-making. This includes classroom-based exams, progress monitoring assessments and the 3-8 New York State test in English Language Arts and mathematics.

In the next few months, we will begin our New Year State testing program administration for students in grades 3-8. The English Language Arts testing will take place beginning on **Thursday, April 12th**, and end on **Friday, April 13th**. On each of the two days of testing, students will be afforded unlimited time to complete each exam section. Students will be provided with multiple opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in both multiple choice and short response questions as indicated in the chart below.

The mathematics exam begins on **Tuesday, May 1st** and ends on **Wednesday, May 2nd**. Similar to the ELA exam, students will be afforded unlimited time to complete each exam section. On the first day, all questions will be multiple choice and the second day will include short and extended response questions where students will be expected to show their work.

Please note, the exam time frame for all grades 3-8 exams for 2018 has been shortened. We will only be required to test on two days rather than the three days designated in the past for both ELA and Math.

We recognize the students will be afforded unlimited time; however, as listed below, the New York State Education Department has provided estimated times for which the exams should be completed. With that said, if students require more time beyond the “estimated” time, we will move these students to a separate testing location which will provide the child with the time needed to complete the exam. Children refusing exams will be brought back to class at the end of the “estimated” time period to continue with their instructional day. All children will have a snack break in the morning whether they are a test-taker or not.

Listed below are detailed times given for each day of the exam for both ELA and Mathematics.

ELA Test		
Estimated Time to Complete Exams for 2018		
Grades 3-4		
Day 1	60-70 mins.	Session 1: Multiple Choice (24)
Day 2	60-70 mins.	Session 2: Short-Response (6) and Extended-Response (1)
Grades 5-8		
Day 1	80-90 mins.	Session 1: Multiple Choice (35)
Day 2	80-90 mins.	Session 2: Short-Response (6) and Extended-Response (1)

Mathematics Test		
Estimated Time to Complete Exams for 2018		
Grade 3		
Day 1	55-65 mins.	Session 1: Multiple Choice (25)
Day 2	60-70 mins.	Session 2: Multiple Choice (8) Short-Responses (6) and Extended-Response (1)
Grade 4		
Day 1	65-75 mins.	Session 1: Multiple Choice (30)
Day 2	65-75 mins.	Session 2: Multiple Choice (8) Short-Response (6) and Extended-Response (1)
Grade 5		
Day 1	80-90 mins.	Session 1: Multiple Choice (30)
Day 2	70-80 mins.	Session 2: Multiple Choice (8) Short-Response (6) and Extended-Response (1)
Grade 6		
Day 1	80-90 mins.	Session 1: Multiple Choice (31)
Day 2	75-85 mins.	Session 2: Multiple Choice (7) Short-Response (7) and Extended-Response (1)
Grades 7 - 8		
Day 1	80-90 mins.	Session 1: Multiple Choice (33)
Day 2	75-85 mins.	Session 2: Multiple Choice (7) Short-Response (7) and Extended-Response (1)

We want to give our students every opportunity to succeed and perform to the best of his/her ability. We ask that your child get a good night's sleep and come to school having eaten a healthy breakfast.

Although these tests are important, we recognize that they are not the sole indicator of success. Conversations with your child about doing his/her best, as always, would suffice. Upon receiving the results, which has typically been in August, we will provide you with a detailed report outlining the areas tested and the scores received. In addition, the New York State Education Department anticipates at least 75% of the questions will be released; and once they are made available, we will share the link to this information with you.

The district does not encourage the refusal of the exams; however, we recognize this is a parent choice. For parents refusing the exams on behalf of their child, please click the link for the process and procedures that must be followed. *The deadline to submit your refusal letter(s) to your school is Monday, March 26th.* We have also provided a link that may help answer questions pertaining to the refusal of taking the state exams.

We value our partnership with you and appreciate your support of our schools. Thank you for your assistance in following the guidelines outlined. If you have any questions about the assessments, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's principal or myself.

Sincerely,

Jill M. Gierasch

Jill M. Gierasch

Deputy Superintendent

516-434-3010

[Click links below:](#)

[Frequent Test Refusal Questions](#)

[Parent Refusal Instructions 2017-2018.pdf](#)