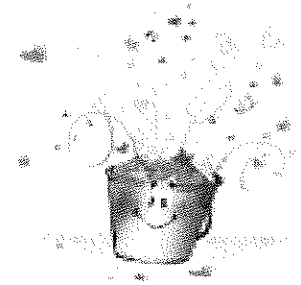


SANTAPOGUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As a reminder, this spring, our students in grades 3-5 will take assessments aligned to the state's learning standards. The 2020 testing will be scheduled over two consecutive days for Math, ELA and Grade 4 Science on the following dates:

New York State grades 3-5 English language arts (ELA) exam: **March 25 and 26, 2020**

New York State grades 3-5 Math exam: **April 22 and 23, 2020**

New York State grade 4 Science Performance: **May 18 and June 1, 2020**

Over the course of the past few years, the New York State Education Department has made adjustments to the tests in response to concerns from parents and educators about the state exams. For example, there are fewer questions on the tests and students are now allowed as much time as they need to complete the tests within the regular school day. Other changes are related to test development and administration, as well the use of the test results. As this year's assessment dates approach, please keep in mind that no single test provides a complete picture of your child's abilities. When combined with diagnostic screening, district benchmark assessments, classroom activities and unit quizzes/tests, these annual assessments can provide important information about a student's academic growth. State assessments also provide valuable information about the performance of our schools and the district as a whole.

We will be working over the next few weeks as a building during our "intervention period" on reviewing simple strategies that students can use to attack different types of questions. Together as a team (both Classroom and Specialists) we will also offer words of encouragement, and help reduce any test anxiety.

As always, we encourage our students to do their best on all learning opportunities they participate in at school. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Carere
Principal