

PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

106 Washington Avenue, Plainview, New York 11803



March 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is that time of year again when we begin the New York State testing administration for students in grades 3-8 in English Language Arts and mathematics. Our teachers have been preparing our students for the exams since the school year began with a comprehensive curriculum aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards. Students will be exposed to the testing format through various exercises over the next few weeks.

As you may already know, these exams have once again changed for the 2015-2016 administration. Some of the outlined changes include the following:

- Decrease in the number of test questions,
- A shift to **untimed** testing.

The English Language Arts testing will take place beginning on **Tuesday, April 5th**, and ends on **Thursday, April 7th**. On each of the three days of testing, students will be afforded unlimited time to complete each exam section. We anticipate emphasis on non-fiction text-based questions and multiple opportunities for children to respond to questions in writing.

The mathematics exam begins on **Wednesday, April 13th**, and ends on **Friday, April 15th**. Similar to the ELA, students will be afforded unlimited time to complete each section. On the first two days, all questions will be multiple choice and the third day will include short and extended response questions where students will be expected to show their work.

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 more detailed changes to the exams as compared to last year.

Comparison of the 2016 -2015 ELA Test										
Estimated Time to Complete Exams for 2016			# of Reading Passages		# of Multiple Choice Questions		# of 2-pt. Constructed Response Questions		# of 4-pt. Constructed-Response Questions	
			2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
Grades 3 -4										
Day1	60-70 mins.	Book 1	4	5	24	30	0	0	0	0
Day 2	60-70 mins.	Book 2	3	3	7	7	2	3	1	1
Day 3	60-70 mins.	Book 3	3	3	0	0	5	5	1	1
Grades 5-8										
Day 1	60-70 mins.	Book 1	5	6	35	42	0	0	0	0
Day 2	80-90 mins.	Book 2	3	3	7	7	2	3	1	1
Day 3	80-90 mins.	Book 3	3	3	0	0	5	5	1	1

Comparison of the 2016-2015 Mathematics Test									
Estimated Time to Complete Exams for 2016			# of Multiple-Choice Questions		# of 2-pt. Constructed Response Questions		# of 3-pt. Constructed-Response Questions		
			2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	
Grade 3									
Day1	50-60 mins.	Book 1	22	24	0	0	0	0	
Day 2	50-60 mins.	Book 2	22	24	0	0	0	0	
Day 3	60-70 mins.	Book 3	0	0	5	5	3	3	
Grade 4									
Day 1	50-60 mins.	Book 1	22	24	0	0	0	0	
Day 2	50-60 mins.	Book 2	23	25	0	0	0	0	
Day 3	80-90 mins.	Book 3	0	0	6	6	4	4	
Grade 5									
Day1	70-80 mins.	Book 1	22	24	0	0	0	0	
Day 2	80-90 mins.	Book 2	23	25	0	0	0	0	
Day 3	80-90 mins.	Book 3	0	0	6	6	4	4	
Grades 6-8									
Day 1	70-80 mins.	Book 1	26	28	0	0	0	0	
Day 2	70-80 mins.	Book 2	25	27	0	0	0	0	
Day 3	80-90 mins.	Book 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	

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, we anticipate 50% of the questions to 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, especially in light of the new changes. 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. We have also provided a link that may help answer questions pertaining to the refusal of taking the state exams.

[Parent Refusal Instructions.pdf](#)

[Frequent Test Refusal Questions and Answers.pdf](#)

If you have any further questions, please direct them to your child's teacher or the building principal. If we can be of assistance, please call the numbers listed below.

Wishing you and your family a blessed holiday and a restful vacation.

Sincerely,

Lorna R. Lewis

Dr. Lorna R. Lewis
Superintendent of Schools
516-434-3001

Jill M. Gierasch

Jill M. Gierasch
Deputy Superintendent
516-434-3010