

**ROSS ESSLINGER, PRINCIPAL**  
Ext. 6000

**PATRICK T. O'BRIEN, ASST. PRINCIPAL**  
Ext. 6500

**IROQUOIS MIDDLE SCHOOL • 2111 GIRDLE ROAD ELMA, NEW YORK 14059 • PHONE: 716-652-3000 • FAX: 716-995-2337**

January 2024

Dear Iroquois Family:

We are excited to remind you that this spring, our students in grades 5-8 will again take assessments aligned to the state's learning standards. The 2024 Computer-Based testing will be scheduled over two consecutive days on the following dates:

New York State grades 5-8 English language arts (ELA) exam: **April 10-11, 2024**

New York State grades 5-8 math exam: **April 24-25, 2024**

New York State grades 5 and 8 Science exam: **April 29-30, 2024**

Over the course of the past few years, the New York State Education Department has adjusted the tests in response to concerns from parents and educators about the state exams. These adjustments allow Iroquois to utilize the results to provide greater instructional support to the students.

The adjustments also create a more positive experience for students. 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. The test has also reduced the number of testing days from three days to two days.

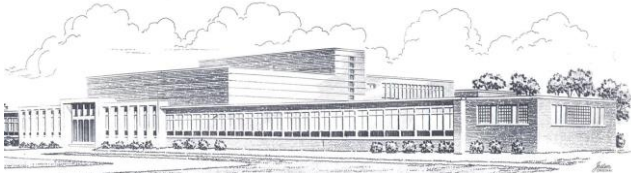
Other modifications are related to test development and administration, as well as the use of the test results. According to state officials, more New York educators now participate in developing the tests. In addition, state lawmakers have separated teacher/principal evaluations and grades 3-8 state ELA and math test scores. This allows the focus of the exams to be on student's achievement.

Many districts, including Iroquois, have been using computer-based testing for the grades 3-8 ELA/math exams in anticipation of the state's plan to offer all assessments digitally on computers in the near future. State leaders maintain that computer-based testing will lead to reduced testing time and faster results. Grades 3-8 will utilize computer-based testing for the ELA and math exam.

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 benchmark and diagnostic assessments, grades, classroom activities, and unit quizzes and tests, 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. However, it is important to note that state test results do not affect student grades or promotion.

DIRECT DIAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:  
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE: 652-3000 EXT. 6001 STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES: EXT. 6871  
NURSE'S OFFICE: EXT. 6600

[HTTP://WWW.IROQUOISCS.D.ORG](http://www.iroquoiscsd.org)



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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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ross Esslinger".

Ross Esslinger  
Middle School Principal

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