



CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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March 20, 2018

Dear CCS Parent,

In a few weeks, the New York State Grade 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Test will be administered to students. Beginning this year, the number of test sessions for these annual assessments will be reduced from three days to two days. Additionally, like the 2016 and 2017 test, the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Test will continue to be untimed.

The ELA will be given on two consecutive school days of the school's choosing. **Cornerstone Christian School has chosen to administer the ELA test on Wednesday, April 11 and Thursday, April 12, 2018. Make-up dates will be Monday, April 16 and Tuesday, April 17, 2018. The Mathematics test will be administered on Wednesday, May 1 and Thursday, May 2, 2018. Make-up dates will be Tuesday, May 8 and Wednesday, May 9, 2018. Please make note of these testing dates for CCS.**

Below you will find a summary of the changes that were made to the 2018 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Test.

- **Two testing days per subject:** The 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math tests have been reduced from three sessions per subject to only two sessions per subject this year, meaning each subject will have two days of testing instead of three. With fewer test sessions, each test will have fewer questions than in recent years, lessening test fatigue for students and better enabling them to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.
- **Test timing:** The test continues to be **untimed**, so students who are still working on their exams will be allowed to continue to work, within the confines of the regular school day. Students who finish may be permitted to hand in their test materials, and sit quietly in class and read a book.
- **Test Questions reviewed and written by New York State Teachers:** Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms. This year, the assessments will also feature many test questions written by New York State teachers, specifically for the annual New York State tests. The future goal is for all test questions to be written by NYS educators.

(over)

- **Why Test??**

- a. All students must be prepared for success in college and careers.
- b. Whether they want to go to college or straight into the workplace, students need to be able to think critically and solve complex problems. With these tools, students have more choices about their futures and can make the most of their opportunities.
- c. The annual assessments are only one of several indicators of student performance. However, they provide objective information about how students are progressing toward the higher level skills and knowledge required to be successful after high school. Parents have a right to this information.
- d. Test objectively inform parents and teachers about their students' progress compared to other students across the State.
- e. The annual ELA and Math tests for students in grades 3-8 are required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015.

I hope that this information has been helpful and I look forward to a very productive and less stressful experience for our students.

In His Service,

Jeannette Rosa-Sanchez, MS, LMSW
School Administrator