

April 1, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is hard to believe that April is here already! I hope that you had an enjoyable spring recess with family and friends. I am writing to remind you that all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the New York State English Language Arts Exam on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. These exams will begin promptly at 8:30a.m. and it is very important that all students are present and on time for all of these days. I have summarized a few ways that you can help insure your child's success:

**Encourage good work habits.**

You can help your child learn good work habits at home and at school. Explain the importance of carefully following directions, avoiding careless errors, and checking work to make sure it is done correctly.

**Present a positive attitude toward the exam.**

Let your child know that you have confidence in his or her abilities. Explain that some of the test questions may be difficult and that it does not matter if other students finish earlier. Let your child know it is ok to proceed at his or her own pace.

**Be sure your child is physically prepared on the day of the exam.**

Taking a test requires a student's full attention, so your child should have a good night's sleep before the test. In addition, make sure your child has a healthy breakfast.

Other important dates for April:

April 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	School Closed for Spring Recess
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Marking Period
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Intramurals Sports Begin
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Final due date for payment for 8 <sup>th</sup> grade DC trip
April 26 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup>	NYS ELA exam for all students in grades 6-8
May 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup>	NYS Mathematics Exam for all students in grades 6-8

**\*\*\*Please note that as a result of a change in state exam testing dates, the date for the 3rd Quarter Honors Assembly has been changed to Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

The middle school staff is always available to parents. Please contact the guidance counselors, social worker, school psychologist, team leaders, or myself with any questions or concerns that you may have. Have a very happy Spring Break!

Yours truly,

Elizabeth Lopez  
Principal