March 7, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 3-8 Students:

This year’s New York State English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments will be administered on April 5-7 and on April 13-15, respectively.

Please note the following items, as related to the assessments:

• State regulations have been amended to include a four-year moratorium on the use of grade 3-8 assessment scores for evaluating teachers and principals. Assessment outcomes can still, however, serve as a tool that the district can use productively for diagnostic purposes.

• While grade 3-8 scores will not be used to evaluate teachers and principals throughout the moratorium, they will continue to be used for the purpose of determining school and district accountability status. For 2016-17, all eight district schools, as well as the district as a whole, have been identified as “In Good Standing.”

• Assessment scores are used as one of several criteria for determining student eligibility for district remedial and enrichment programs, as well as certain class placements.

• Time restrictions have been removed from this year’s exams. Any student who needs additional time to complete an exam will receive it.

• Test participation rates have drawn considerable attention in recent years. While it is not necessarily anticipated that financial sanctions will be imposed on schools/districts for failing to meet federal 95% participation requirements, the U.S. Department of Education is within its rights to withhold Title I funding from eligible districts. Huntington received $572,093 in Title I funding for the 2015-16 school year.

Should you have any questions on the upcoming test administrations, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s building principal.

Sincerely,

James W. Polansky
Superintendent of Schools