



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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March 22, 2018

Dear Catholic School Families,

As you know, this year's New York State examination period is fast approaching. Those assessments are important in that they provide opportunities for our school teachers to assess the academic growth of our students.

While the overwhelming majority of our students participate in the New York State exams every year, some families are hesitant to do so. Families who have reservations are strongly encouraged to speak with their school principal about the benefits and importance of these assessments for their child(ren). Part of that conversation would include the following comments:

- Data gleaned from state exams help teachers create individualized instruction plans and provide support in specific areas as needed.
- Test-taking builds mental stamina in children, and prepares them for higher education and future standardized tests, such as the high school TACHS exam, SATs, and ACTs.
- A student's performance and personal data are protected by the school and state, and are not shared with outside vendors or organizations.

Please note that families who choose not to allow their child(ren) to participate in these exams will need to keep their child(ren) at home while they are being administered, as schools will not be allocating personnel to monitor nonparticipants. Students may come to school after the exam administration for the day has been completed.

Your participation during the spring examination period is greatly appreciated. I look forward to a successful spring for all our students and teachers.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. McNiff, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York

CC: Dr. Susan Miller, Acting Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Staff Development
Regional Superintendents