



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ~ CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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October 16, 2018

Dear Parents,

As we enter the second half of the first trimester, we would like to convey to parents, a Diocesan-wide change to our participation in the New York State Testing Program for the Spring of 2019.

A decision has been made by the Office of the Superintendent~Catholic School Support Services to **administer the Grade 7 ELA and Math tests in the Spring of 2019 and eliminate testing -Grade 8 ELA and Math.**

This decision was based on several factors:

- We are experiencing changes with the New York City - "MySchools" application process for the city's public high schools. We are also trying to be proactive in the event that New York City should decide to eliminate the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT) in future years.
- Last school year, we had several discussions with our academy and school principals and listened to their concerns.
- Many academies/schools offer Regents courses to Grade 8 students which will eliminate testing ELA and Math to eighth graders. However, we will continue to administer Science in Grade 8.

Academies and Schools within the Diocese of Brooklyn will be administering the following state tests in the Spring of 2019:

ELA Grades 4, 6, and 7

Math Grades 4, 6, and 7

Science Grades 4 and 8

We believe this is the right decision for our students and will help ensure that our students are prepared for high school whether they choose a Catholic High School or a public high school.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D.
Superintendent~Catholic School Support Services

Diane Phelan
Associate Superintendent for Evaluation of Programs and Students