St. Louis
SCHOOL

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March 14, 2019

Dear Parents,

This spring, students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will take part in New York State testing. The NYS English Language Arts Assessments will be administered to our St. Louis students on April 2 and 3 and the NYS Math Assessments will be administered on May 1 and 2.

Please be assured that our teachers have been reinforcing the New York Academic Standards throughout the school year along with the excellent St. Louis School standards for which we are known.

We encourage all students in grades 3, 4, and 5 to take the tests and to do their best on these assessments. The outcome of these evaluations will be used by us as one of the means to identify students in need of additional support, and to assess our own school curriculum so that we continue to deliver a high quality and appropriate program to your children. We have taken every measure to reduce student anxiety and increase the credibility of their results and do not want any of our students to be stressed or upset by these tests.

Every year I receive questions concerning parents' ability to have students "opt out" of these assessments. Please know that this is not an option that is officially offered by St. Louis School. Should your child refrain from NYS testing, St. Louis School will lose some of our ability to improve his/her curriculum. If you feel strongly that your child should not participate in NYS testing, please write a letter (no emails) to my attention identifying from which assessments he/she will be refraining and stating the reason that your child is not taking the tests.

Please do not hesitate to bring any questions or concerns you may have about the assessments directly to me. I am happy to discuss these issues with you.

God's Blessings,

Fran Barr

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