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Dear MCS Parents and Guardians,

It is the time of the school year to organize for New York State testing. These assessments will be used to better meet the learning needs of students. **The tests are NOT about rating teachers or ranking students.** Assessments provide valuable information to the standing of our students in relation to the state standards. Instead, they help us understand what we are teaching and what students actually know and can communicate. Our teachers are also focused on these outcomes!

Because of COVID, New York State has made some changes to the test format. The math and ELA grades 3-8 will be single-session tests. Tests have been reduced in length by the removal of the embedded multiple-choice field test questions. The 4th and 8th grade science assessments will not include a performance test.

Our plan for testing will be the following:

- Tuesday, April 20th will be the date for the administration of the 3-8 ELA exams. Make-up tests will be given through Thursday, April 29th.
- Tuesday, May 4th will be the date for the administration of the 3-8 math exams. Make-up tests will be given through Friday, May 14th.
- Tuesday, June 8th will be the 4th and 8th grade science assessment.

The assessments will not be given remotely. There will be no remote instruction for grades 3-6 on the dates listed above. Remote learners will work at home (asynchronous) while tests are being administered. Remote learners in grades 7 & 8 will have assignments in the Google Classroom for periods 1-4 and will log on for periods 5-9.

As always, students with IEP's and/or 504 plans will have access to all accommodations.

I encourage all students with parental support to participate in the assessment process. Your child's scores on the state tests will not affect their grades and it is one more opportunity to understand student learning and plan for the future for your children, our students.

Sincerely,

Katharine Smith

Katharine Smith
Principal