

The 5th Grade Team

April 2018



Finally, it's just a bit warmer and daylight is staying around just a bit longer. The final marking period is underway and brings about new beginnings and familiar events, including state testing. As we prepare our scholars for the upcoming NYS exams. It is important that our scholars are working hard, both at school and at home.

Important Events:

NYS ELA EXAM: April 11th and April 12th

NYS MATH EXAM: May 1st and May 2nd

Information about field trips will be sent home this month

S.H.A.R.E:

The anti-bullying assembly was a great way to remind our scholars of the many ways to prevent and avoid bullying. We ask that you reinforce these ideas below at home and while your students are using social media:

Self Respect ☒ Hard Work ☒ Advocacy ☒ Resilience ☒ Empathy

Academics:

ELA: After the NYS ELA Exam on April 11th and April 12th, we will launch our new reading and writing units titled "Reading in the Content Areas" and "The Lens of History". Scholars will practice skills such as note-taking, main idea work, synthesis, analysis, and critique in order to determine the main idea, summarize texts, and determine the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary. The "Lens of History" writing unit will support students' writing of informational texts within a content area study, in this case a social studies unit on Westward Expansion or the Civil Rights Era.

Science: We are continuing our study on "Changes to the Earth's Surface". Scholars will engage in inquiries such as, "How Do Weathering and Erosion Shape Earth's Surface?" and "How Do Movements of the Crust Change Earth?".

Math: We are weeks away from the NYS Math Exam and students are showing tons of effort as they prepare at school. Parents/Guardians can play an important role in helping their children do well in school and to prepare for these tests. Here are some things you can do:

- Talk with your child's teacher.

Getting to know your child's teacher is an excellent way to stay informed about your child's performance at school. Attending parent-teacher conferences and school events is a good way to maintain regular communication with your child's teacher.

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- Be supportive throughout the year.
Make sure your child comes to school ready to learn, attends school regularly, and completes all homework assignments. Ask your child about his or her performance in school and be generous with praise.
 - Encourage good work habits.
You can help your child learn good work habits at home and at school. Explain the importance of carefully following directions, avoiding careless errors, and checking work to make sure it's done correctly.
 - Present a positive attitude toward the tests.
Let your child know that you have confidence in his or her abilities. Explain that some of the test questions may be difficult and that it does not matter if other students finish earlier. Let your child know it is okay to proceed at his or her own pace.
 - Be sure your child is physically prepared on the day of the test.
Taking a test requires a student's full attention, so your child should have a good night's sleep before the test. Make sure your child has a healthy breakfast and a nutritious lunch.