Dear Parent or Guardian:

As per state and federal requirements, our district will be administering the grades 3-8 New York State Assessments according to the following schedule:

- April 2-3: ELA Grades 3-8
- May 1-2: Math Grades 3-8
- May 22-31 and June 3: Science Assessment Grades 4 and 8
- Field Tests (dates, grades, subjects and buildings TBD by the state education department)

State and federal laws require Smithtown to administer the State Assessments in ELA and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and Science in grades 4 and 8. As a school district, we encourage students to put forth their best effort on all assessments. We do, however, respect a parent’s right to decide whether or not their child participates in State Assessments.

Should you decide to have your child not participate in state testing this year, be sure to submit a signed request to your building principal at your earliest convenience specifying your child’s name (or children’s names) and which assessment(s) you are refusing, or “opting out” of. The district will respect your decision to refuse the specified NY State Assessment(s) for your child(ren) this school year, and your child will not be penalized in any way for that decision. It is important that you submit your requests no later than March 15, 2019, so principals can plan appropriately.

Please note that while the district will not administer the specified state assessments to your child, we require students to participate in all local testing as well as state Regents exams, which are required for graduation.

You are invited to discuss your decision at any time with your child’s teacher or principal.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Bradshaw
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction