



THE PARK SLOPE EDUCATION COMPLEX AT MIDDLE SCHOOL 88

Ailene Altman Mitchell, Principal

544 7th Avenue · Brooklyn, NY 11215 · 718-788-4482/Fax 718-768-0213

<http://ms88.schoolwires.net/ms88>

Guidance Corner: NEW YORK STATE STANDARDIZED TESTING



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! New York State English Language Arts (ELA) and Math examinations are just around the corner! This may be a stressful time for your child, but it is also an excellent opportunity to offer your support. We would like to share a guide from the New York City Department of Education on how to talk to your child about the upcoming standardized exams.

Please feel free to contact us if you need any assistance.

Best,

Jessica Forman & Cynthia Caspi
Guidance Counselors

Exams	Dates
NY State English Language Arts (ELA) grades 3-8	April 14 - April 16, 2015
NY State Mathematics grades 3-8	April 22 - April 24, 2015

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TIPS FOR TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT NYS STANDARDIZED EXAMS

How can I help my child do his or her best on test day?

- Acknowledge that taking tests makes a lot of students feel anxious. Ask your child how he feels about taking the tests and listen to his concerns.
- Make sure your child has a healthy dinner and a good night's sleep the night before the test and a nutritious breakfast that morning.
- Ensure your child packs her bag the night before the tests so that she isn't scrambling to get ready in the morning.
- Make sure all testing accommodations are up to date. If your child has an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 plan, reassure your child that the accommodations will be in place to help him succeed. If you have any questions about your child's IEP or 504, please contact Liav Shapiro at extension 174.
- Suggest to your child that during the tests, if he feels nervous, he should:
 1. Close his eyes and quietly count to 10; take deep breaths and try again.
 2. Think about what he has learned throughout the year; consider how he approached similar questions he encountered in class.
 3. Remember that you believe in him and that you know he can take on this challenge.

What should I say to my child after the tests?

Ask your child how she thought the tests went. Ask which types of questions were easy, which were difficult, and why. Use questions like, "What did you learn?" "What surprised you?" "Was any of it tricky to read?" Understanding what was hard about a test, and why, is one of the most important parts of the learning process for you, your child, and her teachers.

Share what you learned through this conversation with your child's teachers when the test results come out. Ask how you can continue to help your child at home.

Remind your child that the tests are meant to help his teachers support his learning, and that you will also support him in learning what he needs to know and be able to do.

If the test results, combined with your child's class work, demonstrate that your child needs extra help, reassure your child that you will work with her school to come up with a plan to get her the support she needs to be successful.

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