March 20, 2019

Dear Parents,

This spring, our school is administering the NYS assessments in English Language Arts (April 2nd -3rd) and Math (May1st-2nd) in grades 3- 8. Make-up testing will take place on the days immediately following the test dates.

I understand and respect the concerns you may have about testing. While I would encourage test participation, we know that there will be some of you who decide otherwise. I would like to explain how we use the results to improve education for your child as well as changes implemented by the state to improve testing conditions. The most important thing we want parents to know is the state assessments provide us with important data that we use to improve education for all our students. Our teachers and staff will do everything we can to make our students feel comfortable during these exams. Like any test, we ask our students to simply do their best.

In response to parent and educator concerns, New York State has also made a number of changes to testing. These include:

- Exam results are never tied to faculty or administration performance evaluations for our Catholic Schools.
- Untimed tests: Students will have as much time as they need to finish exams at their own pace.
- Fewer test questions: Exams will be shorter with fewer questions in ELA and Math.
- Student scores are not factored into their report cards or grades.
- More teacher involvement: The state has increased the number of teachers who create and review exams.
- **Please see the attached "The State Assessments… What Parents Need to Know" for more information.**

If you decide to have your child (ren) opt-out of the testing please notify the office in writing as soon as possible. Students opting out will be required to remain in the classroom for the duration of the test period but must bring a book/novel for silent reading.

If you have any questions at all, please contact me.

God's Blessings,

Principal Bryk