



*The mission of the Three Village Central School District, in concert with its families and community, is to provide an educational environment which will enable each student to achieve a high level of academic proficiency and to become a well-rounded individual who is an involved, responsible citizen.*

**Robert Cushman Murphy JHS**

**Vincent Vizzo, Principal**  
**Patrick J. DiClemente, Assistant Principal**

May 2010

Dear Parents and Students:

At RC Murphy we are getting ready for many of the activities and programs that relate to the fourth quarter of school, the upcoming State Assessments in Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, and the spring season.

Information regarding year-end Regents Exams, final exams, and end-of-the-year schedules and programs will be sent out in late May or early June.

At this time, we also would like to ask parents/guardians to encourage students to be kept and well-groomed at all times. Even though the weather is warm, we expect shirts and shorts to be of the appropriate length and type as to not be distracting to the education process. For girls, clothing, which is too revealing or suggestive, such as halter tops, tube tops, short shorts, short skirts, and midriff tops are discouraged. For boys, sleeveless undershirts and sagging jeans or shorts are discouraged.

As we implement the State Assessment program, please note the following information that is provided by the State Education Department.

To provide schools, teachers, and parents with an assessment of student achievement, New York State has developed the New York State Testing Program. These standardized tests will be given each year at the same time and will challenge Grades 3 through 8 students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

The New York State tests are designed to measure how well students have mastered necessary skills and to monitor the effectiveness of instructional programs. Although testing is not the only measure of a student's knowledge and abilities, it is a vital part of our educational process. The testing helps assess both student achievement and the progress of our schools. The purpose of the tests is to:

- measure a student's knowledge and overall achievement
- measure a student's mastery of specific skills
- provide information to schools that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional programs

A great deal of progress has occurred this year. As we continue to work together, many more fine things will unfold. Best wishes for the coming spring days. Please continue to keep in contact with the staff at Murphy.

Yours truly,

Vincent Vizzo  
Principal  
RC Murphy JHS

Patrick DiClemente  
Assistant Principal  
RC Murphy JHS

<b>April</b>	<b>NYS English Language Arts</b>	<b>7 &amp; 8</b>	<b>April 27 – April 28</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>NYS Math Assessment</b>	<b>7 - 8</b>	<b>May 5 – May 6</b>
	<b>NYS Science Assessment (Performance)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>May 24 – May 27</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>NYS Social Studies Assessment</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>June 14 (Book 1) June 15 (Book 2)</b>
	<b>NYS Science Assessment (Written)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>June 7</b>

## How Parents Can Help

Parents can play an important role in helping their children to do well in school and to prepare for these tests. Here are some things you can do:

**Be supportive.**

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.