

Monthly Newsletter

April 2023 | Issue 8

Mexico
Middle
School

TIGER WIRE



FROM THE DESK OF MS. HOLLIDAY

MEXICO MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Welcome April! I hope you all had a peaceful, and restful break!

We are approaching NYS testing time. The 5- 8 ELA tests will be administered on April 19 and 20, and the NYS 5-8 Math tests will be administered on May 2 and 3. Our students will be testing from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. each day (extended time is permitted for anyone who needs it beyond 10:00 a.m.) . There is a week long make up period for any student who misses school on the scheduled testing dates. All families were mailed a letter from our Assistant Superintendent, Colleen Root, regarding the upcoming testing dates and it is attached to the end of this edition of the Tiger Wire for review.

All 8th grade students will be attending a field trip on Wednesday, May 17 at the Oswego County Fairgrounds for the 18th Annual Oswego County Career Summit. At the Fairgrounds, students will learn about potential future career options through demonstrations and hands-on workshops.

We had 170 students returned their parent permission slip for our 7th and 8th grade dance this Friday (6:00pm-8:00 pm)! This is a "dress casual" dance, so no formal attire is necessary. Parents are reminded that they must enter the building and sign their student out at the end of the dance. You are permitted to pick up your child(ren) only.

It appears the sun is prevailing this week and the rain is taking a break! We will begin conducting our spring emergency drills as the weather improves.

We hope you have an enjoyable week and are able to spend some time in the beautiful weather headed our way!

Kimberly Holliday

MEXICO MIDDLE SCHOOL

AVID News

makes it
HAPPEN

AVID students spent the morning on March 25 at the HS Community Connection event where they promoted the MS AVID program. AVID students practiced their public speaking skills by sharing with community members how they've grown academically and personally through their work in AVID.



Following the completion of 17 weeks of classroom study, MMS AVID 7/8 students embarked on the Enterprise America experience, spending a day in WCNY's Enterprise America City, which they are responsible for operating.

This photo (right) shows our mayor, Mackenzie Hopp, in her office at City Hall.

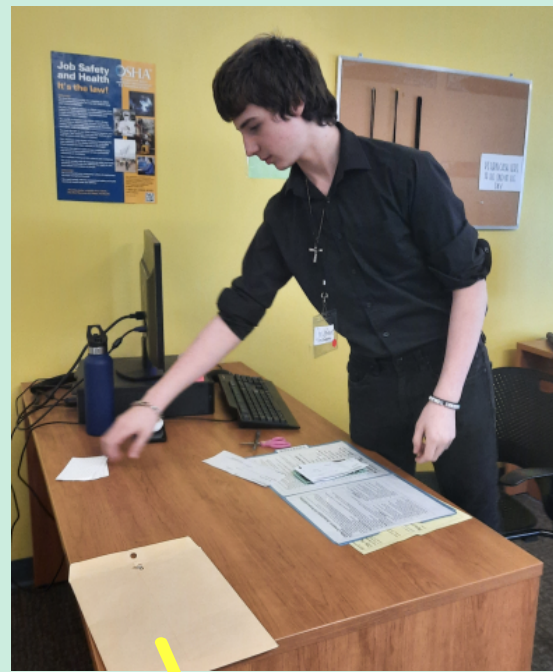




Left- Enterprise America judge, Liam Clark, and city attorney, Zaylee Brand.



Right- Utility Company owner, Christian Mintonye, busy in his office.



On Friday, March 24th, we held the annual Staff volleyball / basketball fundraiser - The middle school lost the volleyball match but won the basketball game and brought home the trophy for the second year in a row!! Thank you class of 2023 for a great night!
MIDDLE SCHOOL ROCKS!

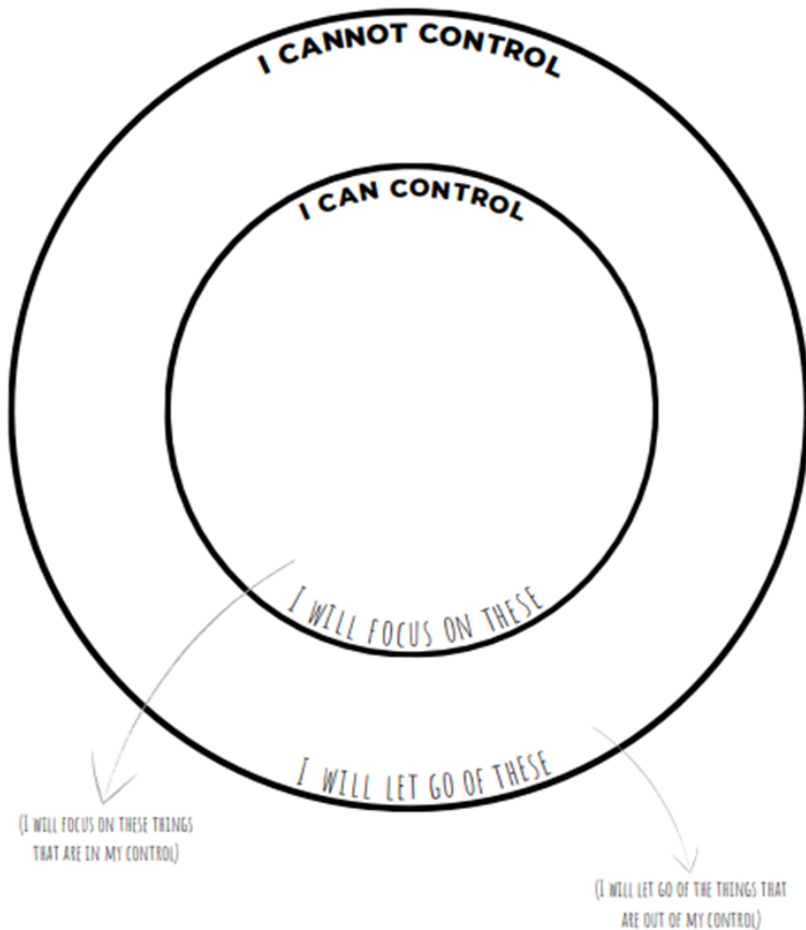




Student Lighthouse Team News



MY CIRCLE OF CONTROL




April 26th will be this month's DEAL "Drop Everything and Lead" and we are talking about "Circle of Control." There are two main ideas within the circle: Circle of Control and Circle of No Control. Our Circle of No Control is the area of our lives that we care about - our families, schools, jobs, friends, the world - but over which we do not have control. Our Circle of Control is the area of our lives that we have direct control over - our attitudes, relationships, and decisions. Leaders who practice Habit 1: Be Proactive, focus on their Circle of Control to positively affect change in the Circle of No Control. We encourage you to talk to your students about what is in their Circle of Control and how they can be proactive to finish their year strong.





APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9  HAPPY EASTER	SPRING BREAK 4/3-4/7					15
16	10 LIGHTHOUSE MEETING A	11 B	12 C	13 D	14 A	15
23	17 B	18 C	19 ELA CBT TESTING DAYS D	20 D	21 ALL COUNTY CHORUS FESTIVAL END OF 30WK MP A	22
30	24 30WK MP GRADES DUE BY 1PM B	25 C	26 PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 1/2 DAYS FOR STUDENTS D	27 A	28 LIGHTHOUSE PEP RALLY 30WK REPORTS GO HOME B	29
	1 C	2 D	3 D	4 A	5 B	6
	MATH CBT TESTING DAYS					
	TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK					

Upcoming Events

April 3-7- Spring Break

April 9- Easter

April 19-20- ELA CBT Testing

April 21- End of 30 WK Marking Period

April 21-22 - All County Chorus Festival

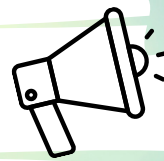
April 26-27 - Parent Teacher Conferences- 10:45 Dismissal for Students

April 28- Lighthouse Pep Rally
30 WK Report Cards go home





Coming Soon...



**Teacher Appreciation
Week is May 1st through
May 5th!**



**Celebration of Learning
will be held at the MS
May 10th from 6pm-
7:30pm**

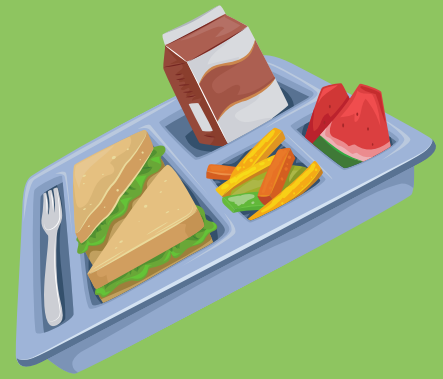
**NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble
Festival happens May 19th
through the 20th!**



**The Art and Music
Showcase is happening on
May 25th from 6pm-
7:30pm**



LUNCH TIME



LUNCH

Menu subject to change.

APRIL 2023

Elementary has choice of main menu, chicken patty or pbj. MS/HS has choice of main menu, chicken patty or pizza.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 No School Spring Break	4	5 No School Spring Break	6	7 No School Spring Break
10 Hamburger on a Bun FF Asst Fruit Milk	11 Popcorn Chicken Seasoned Rice Carrots Asst Fruit Milk	12 Fish Sticks Mac and Cheese Broccoli Asst Fruit Milk	13 Tacos Flour Tortillas Corn Asst Fruit Milk	14 Pizza Green Beans Asst Fruit Milk
17 Sloppy Joe on a Bun FF Asst Fruit Milk	18 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Broccoli Asst Fruit Milk	19 Breakfast Brunch Egg, Sausage & Cheese Sandwich Hashbrown Rounds Asst Fruit/Milk	20 Meatball Sub Carrots Asst Fruit Milk	21 Pizza Green Beans Asst Fruit Milk
24 Hamburger on a Bun FF Asst Fruit Milk	25 Popcorn Chicken Seasoned Rice Baked Beans Asst Fruit Milk	26 ½ Day PK-8 Hot Dog in a Bun Carrots Frito Lay Chips Fruit/Milk	27 ½ Day PK-8 Pizza Green Beans Asst Fruit Milk	28 Fish Sticks Mac and Cheese Broccoli Asst Fruit Milk

Mexico School District is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you have any questions concerning the school nutritional program, please contact Brenda Thomas at 315-963-8400 x 5071. Please keep accounts current and prepay for meals.

Free-no charge. Reduced-no charge. Paid- PK-4 \$41.25 (\$2.75) and 5-12 \$43.50 (\$2.90)

MY SCHOOL BUCKS PAY FOR MEALS ONLINE
MySchoolBucks.com



A Letter from Colleen Root

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

April 6, 2023

Dear Mexico Academy and Central School District Parents and Guardians,

It is the time of the school year that the district is preparing for 3-8 New York State testing. The tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and help to ensure that the students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed for success in college and the modern workplace. The tests also show how schools and districts are progressing with the learning standards and can support professional development for teachers to enhance teaching and learning.

We believe in any given year that...

- Assessments provide valuable information to the standing of our students in relation to the state standards.
- Assessments provide valuable information to the standing of our schools in relation to other schools.
- Assessments provide an important layer of data as we make program decisions, evaluate our running data, and set building and district goals.

Testing Dates for Elementary and Middle School Students:

Grades 3-8 ELA : April 19th and 20th

Grades 3-8 Math: May 2nd and 3rd

In the next few days, you will be receiving additional information from building principals about the testing schedule and test procedures. Please contact the building administrator of your child's school if you have any questions, including parent refusal for a student to participate in the exam.

Refusals must be in writing and received no later than Friday, April 14th for ELA and Friday, April 28th for Math, in order for buildings to be adequately prepared on the testing days. Since it is an instructional day, students designating test refusal will participate in a parallel assessment of priority standards, in iReady ELA and math, during the testing window. We strongly encourage all students, with parental support, to participate in the assessment process. Your child's scores on the state tests will not affect their grades and it is one more opportunity to understand student learning and inform instructional decision making. In addition, student performance on the 2023 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics tests will have no employment-related consequences on teacher and principal evaluations.

Sincerely,

Colleen Root

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Mexico Academy and Central School District



The 2023 Grades 3-8 New York State Assessments: What Parents Need to Know

The Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests are administered in the spring to students across New York State. These annual ELA and mathematics tests for students in grades 3-8 are required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. Public and charter school students enrolled in Grades 3–8 are expected to take the ELA and mathematics tests administered for their grade level. The tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and are a valuable tool used to help ensure students have the support needed to succeed. The tests can also help identify any learning needs a student may have.

Untimed Tests

- The 2023 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will be untimed.
- This means that as long as students are working productively, they will have as much time as they need to complete each test session, within the confines of the regular school day. A supervised lunch break should be arranged for students during any of the test sessions if necessary.
- Schools and districts have discretion to allow students to read silently or quietly exit the room when they have completed their test while others continue to work.

Test Questions Written and Reviewed by New York State Teachers

- Teachers from across the State serve on committees to write, evaluate, and select questions for the tests.
- Hundreds of New York State educators certified in the grade/content were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2023 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms.

Providing Results for Teachers and Improved Resources for Parents

- As in previous years, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) plans to have instructional reports returned to teachers by the end of the school year and to release at least 75% of the test questions again.
- The 2023 Score Reports for parents will feature information about what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.
- Results can be used to see how schools, districts, and the State overall are progressing with the learning standards. However, State law and Regulations of the Education Commissioner prohibit districts from making promotions or placement decisions for students based solely or primarily on the performance on these tests.

Computer-Based Testing

- Some schools chose to administer the 2023 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests on computers rather than on paper. The computer-based tests (CBT) will have the same questions as the paper versions.
- The [Question Sampler \(https://ny.nextera.questarai.com/tds/#practice\)](https://ny.nextera.questarai.com/tds/#practice) is available publicly online and offers an opportunity for students, parents, and educators to become familiar with CBT.
- Eventually, all schools will use [CBT for annual State tests](#). There are many opportunities that come with full implementation of CBT and NYSED is exploring ways to harness these benefits once all students are participating in computer-based testing.

Questions about testing programs, policies, and procedures may be sent to emscassessinfo@nysed.gov.



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



Easter



F B Z

I R G J S Z P K G

M J C N L W X V B D C R M

F H V G M C E X T Z I B U O Z P N

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U Q R U D L P S O O S Y X T B L H D Z H S

H H M W K S I W A I C E F W E H N P U M Y

K R S G N I L K C U D M O Y Q A A W Q G T F E

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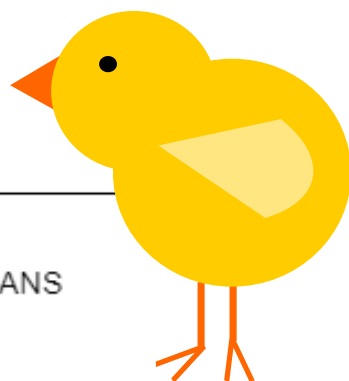
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BUNNY
DUCKLINGS
BONNET
HOTCROSSBUNS
RABBIT
CHOCOLATE

DAFFODILS
EASTEREGG
HYACINTH
BASKET
CHICKS

LAMBS
IRIS
JELLYBEANS
SPRING
EGGS