XXX, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to let you know about a great opportunity that our schools are participating in this spring.

As you may have heard, New York is among a group of leading states that are in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). As a member state, our educators are helping to develop next-generation, computer-based tests in math, reading, and writing that are of exceptional quality and will measure students’ content knowledge and key skills, such as their ability to think critically, solve problems and use information from what they read to write well-developed essays.

However, before states can administer these tests, PARCC is conducting field tests this spring. This is really a “test of the test” to see how well it works and whether PARCC needs to make any adjustments before kids take the actual PARCC exams. This is also a chance to make sure the tablets, laptops and desktop computers most students will use for the test work properly with the test. In some schools, students will take the field test on paper-and-pencil forms. Students won’t get scores back based on the results, but they will get a chance to engage in challenging math or English problems and writing exercises.

Teachers and principals across the PARCC consortia are looking forward to this opportunity to become more familiar with the new assessment. These assessments are aligned to New York’s educational standards which are designed to prepare students for success in college and careers.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of your children. Please be in touch with your child’s school principal if you have any questions.

Sincerely,