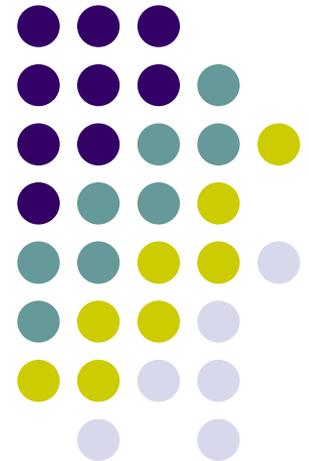
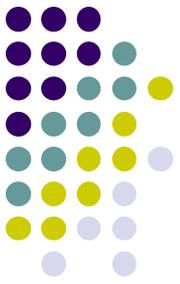


Getting Ready for the NYS Tests

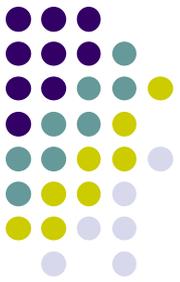
February 2, 2017



Getting Ready for the NYS Tests

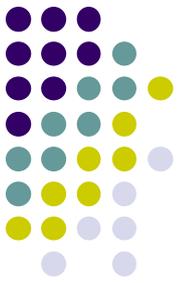


- What we learned from 15-16 results
- The tests: ELA & Math
- Instruction & test prep at Peck Slip
- What can you do to help at home?
- Tests Implications
- Q & A



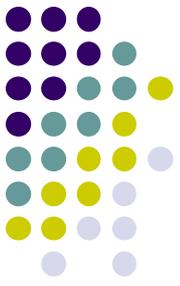
What we learned from 15-16

- Overall: Stamina, more multiple choice skills
- ELA: Writing, inferring
- Math: Multi-step problems, Fractions



Test Dates

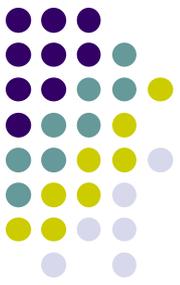
- ELA
 - March 28, 29, 30 (Tuesday – Thursday)
- Mathematics
 - May 2, 3, 4 (Tuesday – Thursday)



The ELA Test:

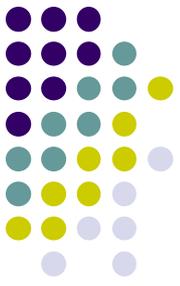
- Session 1
 - Read short passages & answer multiple choice questions.
- Session 2:
 - Read passages
 - Answer multiple choice questions.
 - Answer short response questions.
 - Plan & write essay (extended response).
- Session 3:
 - Read multiple passages, usually in two different genres.
 - Write short answers for both.
 - Plan and write a longer essay (in 4 & 5 comparing the two).

How are we preparing your children for the ELA?

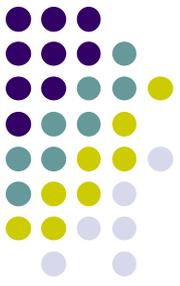


- Session One:
 - Multiple choice strategies
 - Right there vs. Off the Page
 - Main idea, sequencing, opinion/fact, vocabulary
 - Comprehension strategies (summarization)
 - *Attitude!* Act like this test is a video game
- Session Two:
 - Short-answer practice (restating the question in your answer)
 - Extended Response practice: Planning and writing. Making sure to include all details based on bulleted question.

How are we preparing your children for the ELA?



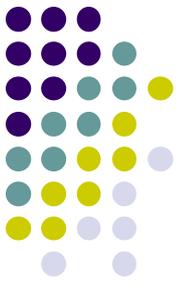
- Session Three:
 - Writing Unit in Essays: introduction, evidence, conclusion (grades 4 & 5)
 - Learning what the test makers are looking for and what students' weaknesses are.
 - First, students draft written responses
 - Then they look at a level 3 & 4 response and describe its attributes.
 - Finally, they revise theirs to make it better, and note areas they need to focus on.



The Math Test

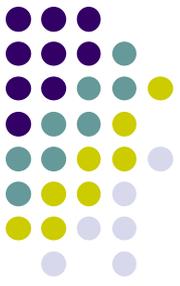
- Session 1 & 2
 - Answer multiple choice questions (includes very little raw computation).
 - Use rulers (3 – 5) and protractors (4 & 5).
- Session 3
 - Solve single & multi-step problems.
 - Provide explanations.
 - Use rulers (3 – 5) and protractors (4 & 5).
 - Partial credit available.

How are we preparing your children for the math test?



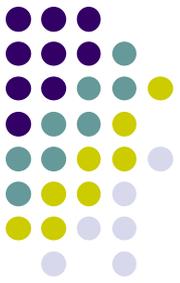
- Session 1 & 2:
 - Reading questions (all tests are reading tests)
 - Multiple choice strategies
 - Review of all content areas
 - Relying on reasoning – does that make sense?
- Session 3:
 - Understanding what test makers are looking for
 - Presenting work clearly & legibly
 - Reviewing work thoughtfully

What can you do to help at home?

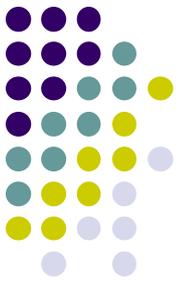


- Build stamina by increasing number of minutes your child reads each night.
- Read short texts of all kinds & genres.
- Brush up on math facts
- Practice checking writing & math work for errors.
- Involve your kids in everyday math
- Monitor your child's stress level
- Educate yourselves: Check out www.emsc.nysed.gov/3-8/

The Tests & Middle School



- Yes, middle schools look at test scores
- No, they are not an absolute cut-off
- Middle schools prefer their own entrance process (test, interview, group project)



The Tests Implications

- Students are not held over on the basis of test scores.
- Screened middle schools look at test scores but by law they cannot be the sole or primary factor.