



West Side School

COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1597 Laurel Hollow Rd • Syosset, New York 11791

Kurt A. Simon, Principal

516.692.7900 Main Office

February 6, 2013

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that West Side School's fourth graders have been selected to represent schools across the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is the largest nationally representative assessment of students across the country, and it is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP, which has been conducted since 1969, is different from other assessments because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public.

In our school, the NAEP assessment will be given on February 27th. Your child has been selected to take either a mathematics or reading assessment. In addition to answering questions in one of these subjects, students will be asked some questions about themselves and their educational experience.

It will take about 90 minutes for most students to participate in the assessment. The results are completely confidential (in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347), and the information provided will be used for statistical purposes only. Your child's grades will not be affected. Your child may be excused from participation for any reason, is not required to finish the assessment, and may skip any test question. While NAEP is voluntary, we depend on student participation to provide an accurate measure of student achievement that will inform improvements in education. Your child will represent many other students, so participation is very important. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by February 25th.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP. We do, however, ask parents to encourage their children to do their best and get plenty of rest the night before the assessment.

If you would like additional information about NAEP or to view sample subject area and student questions, please visit <http://nationsreportcard.gov/parents.asp>. If you have questions, please contact me at your convenience.

We are excited that our school will be participating in NAEP, and pleased that your child has been selected. We know that West Side's students will help us show what our nation's students know and can do.

Sincerely,

Kurt Simon, Principal