

Bethpage No.1 in Middle School Math

Achieves top score in Nassau County on Grade 8 Math Exam;
fourth highest score on Grade 4 Math Assessment

The State Education Department (SED) recently released scores on the 2005 Math assessments for fourth and eighth grade students. Bethpage students continued to soar, as eighth graders achieved the highest score of any school district in Nassau County on the Grade 8 Math Assessment. Elementary grade students were impressive as well. Bethpage was the fourth highest performing district in the county on the Grade 4 Math Assessment.

“The Math Department looked closely at the areas where students have struggled in the past. Teachers focused on those areas to ensure our instructional practices addressed the students needs so that they didn’t make the previous mistakes,” said Bethpage Director of Mathematics Angel Kozlowski. “We thank not only our eighth grade faculty, but Math teachers across the grade levels for preparing students ahead of time. It’s been a vertical process, from kindergarten on up.”

Bethpage’s success is gauged by the percentage of eighth graders scoring in Levels 3 and 4 on the exam, SED’s benchmark for success. In 2005, 92.8% of students scored in either Levels 3 or 4 on the Grade 8 Assessment, achieving the highest passing percentage in Nassau. Great Neck was right behind Bethpage followed by the Jericho School District.

“We are proud of the effort shown by our students on all of the state examinations,” said JFK Middle School Principal Kerri McCarthy. “They have met the challenge of higher standards while maintaining their community spirit and their willingness to help others. It was nice that we received this news at the same time we were raising funds to help the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It really shows how well rounded Bethpage students are.”

Bethpage’s results for 2005 on the Grade 4 exam marked a significant improvement from the previous year. In 2005, 99% of the fourth grade students passed the state assessment, an increase of seven points. Bethpage’s standardized test scores overall have risen dramatically over the last several years.

According to Terrence Clark, the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology, “This has really been a coordinated effort by everyone involved. The teachers have spent a great deal of time analyzing past results to determine which areas required more instructional time. They have rewritten curriculum and local assessments to better reflect the new standards and they have placed greater emphasis on interdisciplinary learning. Parents have attended workshops on the new assessments and we have seen an increased level of communication between home and school. And there has been a heavy emphasis on the use of technology to help illustrate mathematical concepts.”

“This is a testament to the teamwork of our entire school community,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Richard S. Marsh. “I commend our hard-working JFK students who made the commitment to meeting the demands of a more rigorous curriculum, as well as the dedicated faculty and staff, our supportive Board of Education and of course, the parents, who are on the pulse of their child’s education, helping them to connect Math with everyday life.”