



## Edmund W. Miles Middle School

501 Route 110, Amityville, NY 11701-1799

Tel. (631) 565-6200

Fax. (631) 789-1655

**Mr. Ed Plaia**  
**Principal**

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As it is my intent to keep you informed throughout the year, I have come to a point in this school year in which I want to inform you of a decision that I have deliberated over and discussed with our team of administrators, teachers and chairpersons at the middle school. I now want to inform you as parents/guardians of a strong recommendation that I have to make regarding your son or daughter in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the Regents exams our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking in June.

As you know, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are fully accelerated in Algebra I, and Living Environment, and both courses culminate in a Regents examination in June. This year, we also made the decision to pilot the U.S History and Government course, which also ends in a Regents examination in June. When the Regents examination schedule was released by the state, we became very concerned that the Regents exams in Algebra I and U.S History and Government are being administered on the same day. This would mean that students would be testing for six hours on that day. Students with extended time accommodations could potentially be testing for up to twelve hours that day. The pressure for students to prepare for both exams on the same day may have a detrimental effect on the results of one or both of the exams. We, as a school district, do not have the authority to change the testing dates for Regents examinations, so after much deliberation, we have determined that it is in the best interest of our students to wait until high school to sit for the U.S History and Government Regents Exam.

Also, our teachers hold intensive Regents review sessions immediately before the start of each Regents exam. These review sessions would not be possible given the testing time frame on that testing day. We have found that these intensive review sessions immediately before the Regents have benefitted students tremendously in the past. Students will not be able to attend our Algebra I review sessions if they are taking the U.S History and Government Regents and we strongly recommend they attend these review sessions.

In summary, we are not recommending students sit for the U.S History and Government Regents in June. We strongly encourage students to focus all of their attention on the two other Regents exams they will be taking: Algebra I on June 13th and Living Environment on June 14th. By doing this, each student will have a better opportunity to do his or her best on the examinations and to earn Regents credits, which will be on their High School transcript. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

Edward Plaia