

Niagara Falls City School District 2026-2027 Assessment Calendar

PLEASE SEE APPENDICES FOR DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING CORE SUBJECT TESTING

SEPTEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 2 First Day for Students
- 2-3 **ASQ Screening** for PreK-3 & PreK-4 Window
- 7 Labor Day - No School
- 8 **NWEA** Fall Testing Window Opens Through 10/6/26
Reading Grades K – 2, (9 and 10 select teams); Math Grades 7 – 8;
Algebra and Geometry available
- 8-22 **i-Ready Inform: Reading** for Grades 3 – 8 Window
- 8-22 **i-Ready Inform: Math** for Grades 1 – 8 Window
- 8-22 **Wonders Phonics & Decoding** Diagnostic for Grades K – 3
Window
- 8-22 **ELA Baseline Writing** Assessment for Grades K – 1 Window
- 8-25 **AIMSweb Plus** Benchmark Assessment for Grades K – 8 Window
- 28 **BASC-3 BESS** for Grades 7 – 12 Opens Through 10/9/26

OCTOBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 5-23 **i-Ready Inform: Math** Window for Kindergarten
- 6 **NWEA** Fall Testing Window Closes
- 9 **BASC-3 BESS** for Grades 7 – 12 Window Closes
- 12 Holiday - No School
- 13 **BASC-3 BESS** for Grades K – 6 Window Opens Through 11/12/26
(K-4 teacher form) (Grades 5 & 6 student form)
- 26 **ELA Trimester 1** Assessment for Grades 3 – 6 Window Opens
Through 11/6/26 (including makeups)

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NOVEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 3 **Superintendent Conference Day** – All Levels (Election Day)
- 4-12 **Science Benchmark Assessment #1** for Grade 3, 5, 6 Window
- 6 **ELA Trimester 1** Assessment for Grades 3 – 6 Closes (including makeups)
- 11 Veterans Day – No School
- 12 **BASC-3 BESS** for Grades K – 6 Window Closes (K-4 teacher form) (Grades 5 & 6 student form)
- 16 **ELA Trimester 1** Assessment for Grade 2 Window Opens Through 12/4/26 (including makeups)
- 12-20 **NFHS:** Interim Assessments PBLA select courses
- 25 No Teachers / No Students / No 10-month Staff
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Break – No School

DECEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 2-9 **Science Benchmark Assessment #1** for Grade 4 Window
- 4 **ELA Trimester 1** Assessment for Grade 2 Window Closes (including makeups)
- 14-22 **Science Benchmark Assessment #1** for Grade 7 Window
- 22 Last Day of Classes before Winter Recess
- 23-31 Winter Recess

JANUARY 2027

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 1 Winter Recess
- 4 Return from Winter Recess
- 5 **Social Studies Grade 7** American Revolution Inquiry Window opens through 2/25/27
- 5-19 **NWEA** Winter Testing Window
- K-2 ELA Mandatory
- 6-13 **Science Benchmark Assessment #2** for Grade 3 Window
- 6-22 **i-Ready Inform: Reading** for Grades 3 – 8 Window
- 6-22 **i-Ready Inform: Math** for Grades K – 8 Window
- 4-29 **AIMSweb Plus** Benchmark Assessment for Grades K – 8 Window
- 11-15 **Science Benchmark Assessment** for Grade 8 Window (Excluding those taking Living Environment)
- 13-20 **Science Benchmark Assessment #2** for Grade 5 Window
- 15 **Superintendent's Conference Day** - ELEM & PREP
- 18 Dr. M.L. King Jr. Day – No School
- 26-29 **NFHS:** Regents Exams

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FEBRUARY 2027

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

- 1 **WIDA ACCESS** (formerly NYSESLAT) Window Opens Through 4/9/26
- 1-12 **ELA Trimester 2** Assessment for Grades 3 – 6 Window (including makeups)
- 3-4 **Math Interim** for Grade 7 & 7ACC (In-Class)
- 3-4 **Math Interim** for Grade 8 & 8 Algebra (In-Class)
- 3-10 **Science Benchmark** Assessment #2 for Grade 4 Window
- 15 Presidents' Day – No School
- 17-26 **NFHS: Interim Assessments** PBLA select courses
- 18 **Superintendent's Conference Day** - NFHS
- 22 **CogAT Testing** Window Opens Through 3/5/27
Grades 1 and 6 and additional grade(s) by recommendation/request
- 25 **Social Studies** Grade 7 American Revolution Inquiry Window closes

MARCH 2027

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 5 **Superintendent Conference Day** – All Levels
- 1-12 **ELA Trimester 2** Assessment for Grade 2 Window (including makeups)
- 5 **CogAT Testing** Window Closes
- 8 **NYSAA: Administration** Window Opens Through 6/11/27
- 8-19 **ELA Trimester 3** Assessment for Grades 3 – 6 (including makeups)
- 15-19 **Science Benchmark** Assessment #2 for Grade 6 & 7 Window
- 22-31 Spring Recess – No Teachers/ No Students/ No 10-month staff
- 26 No 12 Month Staff

APRIL 2027

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- 1-2 Spring Recess – No Teachers/ No Students/ No 10-month staff
- 5 Return from Recess
- 5 **NYS CBT ELA - Grades 3 – 8 (Including Makeups),**
NYS CBT MATH - Grades 3 – 8 (Including Makeups),
NYS CBT SCIENCE - Grades 5 and 8 (Including Makeups),
Window Opens Through 5/14/27
- 9 **WIDA ACCESS** Window Closes
- 30 **Superintendent's Conference Day** - NFHS

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MAY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 3-14 **AP Exams** for NFHS
- 10 **BASC-3 BESS** for Grades K – 6 (select students receiving interventions only)
- 10-31 **PBLA Personal Finance, Prep FAC's, & NFHS CFM** Window
- 14 **NYS CBT ELA - Grades 3 – 8 (Including Makeups),**
NYS CBT MATH - Grades 3 – 8 (Including Makeups),
NYS CBT SCIENCE - Grades 5 and 8 (Including Makeups),
 Window closes
- 21 **Social Studies** – Grades 7 & 8 Capstone Project Window Ends
- 24 **NWEA Reading** Spring Testing for Grades K – 2 Window Opens Through 6/16/27
- 24 **STAMP 4S Spanish** for Grade 8 Window Opens Through 6/4/27
- 31 Memorial Day – No Staff/ No Students

JUNE 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 1-16 **i-Ready Inform: Reading** for Grades 3 – 8 Window
- 1-16 **i-Ready Inform: Math** for Grades K – 8 Window
- 4 **STAMP 4S Spanish** for Grade 8 Window Closes
- 1-16 **ELA Trimester 3** Assessment for Grade 2 Window Window
- 1-17 **AIMSweb Plus** Benchmark Assessment for Grades K – 8
- 11 **NYSAA:** Administration Window Closes
- 7-11 **ELA Summative Writing** Assessment for Grades K – 1
- 7-11 **Wonders Phonics and Decoding** Assessment for Grades K – 3
- 14-18 **Science Benchmark** Assessment #3 Window for Grade 6 & 7
- 15-22 **Science Benchmark** Assessment #3 Window for Grade 3 & 4
- 15-25 Regents Exams
- 16 **NWEA Reading** Spring Testing for Grades K – 2 Window Closes
- 16 **Math** Final Exam for Grade 7, 7ACC, and 8Math
- 18 Juneteenth Observance – No School
- 24 **ELEM & PREP:** Last Day for Students
- 25 **Rating Day** – Last Day for Teachers

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Appendix A

ELA

Foundations: All Unit tests to be administered

ELA – Wonders (Teachers Not Trained in Literacy Footprints)

- Grades K-5 -Refer to teacher checklists

Phonics & Decoding Diagnostics (Grades K – 3)

- Early September Window

Platform: ThinkTech

All ELA Grades 2 – 6 administer T1, T2, and T3 assessments*

* **T3** Assessments in grades 3 – 6 begin near the end of T2 and close in T3.

Grade 3 Language Arts has numerical grading on report card

Platform: i-Ready

i-Ready Inform Reading grades 3 – 8

Appendix B

MATH

**Platform:
i-Ready**

Grades K – 6 all unit tests to be administered. (See grade level assessment matrix for specific guidance.)

PURPLE FOLDER **Combined ELA & Math K-6**

- Please refer to the **Student ELA Checklist** to include the correct documents needed to complete the folder
- **Math K – 1 Coversheet**
 - o Please refer to the Student Math Coversheet to include the correct documents needed to complete the folder
- **Math 2 – 6 i-Ready Inform Student Growth Report**
 - o See i-Ready K – 6 Math Team for printing directions

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Appendix C

Science

2026-27 Grading Schema for Science Grades 3 – 8

Numerical grades for science should be based on a combination of the BOCES4Science end of unit performance task/assessment and the classwork completed within the unit as well as traditional assessments and the NYS Required Investigations. The chart below has been provided for guidance.

**Platform:
Inner Orbit**

Categories to Include in Determining Numerical Grade	Explanation
District Benchmark Assessments from “Inner Orbit”	All Grade 3 – 8 Science Benchmark Assessments will count as 10% of the trimester in which it is administered. If two Benchmark Assessments fall within the same trimester, average the two grades together to calculate one grade which will count as 10% of that trimester grade.
Unit Classwork and Participation	Must include (but not limited to): - Student Science Journal – Completeness and accuracy of responses with a strong focus on CER statements (these will be a big focus on state assessments, putting priority on them will help students to be prepared for the assessment) - Additional activities outside of the journal if applicable – examples: “Wolf Research Notebook” in the Unit: Where are the Wolves? (3rd grade) “Summary Chart” in the Unit: A Walk in the Park (4th grade) “Deer Diary” in the Unit: Deer, Deer Everywhere (5th grade) - Exit slips, peer/self-evaluations, quizzes, vocabulary activities as included in the BOCES units or created by the teacher - Grade 5 Generation Genius activities/assessments - Grade 5 NYS test prep

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Categories to Include in Determining Numerical Grade	Explanation
Unit Performance Task/Assessment	3rd Grade - Where are the Wolves?: CER Statement (last lesson) - Investigating Weather and Climate: Travel Destination Project/Presentation - Generations of Butterflies: Summative Assessment (found on BOCES4Science website) - Invisible Forces: Rube Goldberg Machine Performance Task 4th Grade - Earth Processes: Final Project/Design Solution (lessons 12 and 13) - Riding the Waves: Mystery Breakout Box Task (last lesson) and Summative Assessment (found on BOCES4Science website) - A Walk in the Park: Scenario Essay - Powering Thru the Fair: Exhibit Hall Performance Task 5th Grade - Deer, Deer Everywhere: Public Service Announcement - Got Water: What's in the Water Performance Task - Toys Matter: Master Materials Engineer "Exam"
NYS Required Investigations	All grade levels have one or more NYS Required Investigation. While these must be scored and saved, how you use these for the trimester grade is flexible – using the rubric provided, based on “correctness” of answers, or based on participation.

ORANGE FOLDER **Science 3-8**

This folder is for Labs only – it is not a portfolio

- Grades 3-6 – The student answer packet for the NYS required investigations should be housed in the orange folders and passed from one grade level to another.
- Grade 6 – 2 Completed Labs
- Grade 7 – the 3rd Lab
- Grade 8 – the 4th and final Lab

*Note – Orange folders are stored in the bookrooms at Prep schools

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Appendix D

**Platform:
ThinkTech
(Resources)**

Social Studies

Grades 3 – 6 Categories that should be included in determining numerical grades:

- Unit tests, homework assignments, quizzes, projects
- Participation and attendance should not be used to determine a grade

Grades 3 – 5

- No grade for 1st Trimester
- Grades for 2nd and 3rd Trimesters only
- There will be no weighting

Grade 6

- Grades for all 3 Trimesters
- Weighting at teacher discretion
- The assessments found in the instructional resource should be used.

Grade 7 (Inquiry Assessment C3-American Revolution)

- Must be completed during window 1/5 – 2/25/27
- Will appear on 3rd quarter report card
- Weighting 10%

Grades 7ACC and 8 (not Accelerated) Capstone Projects

- May be administered anytime during the year completed by 5/21/26
- May be used as 1-point toward Seal of Civic Readiness

Must be added to Gradebook in Q4

- Create assignment in Q4, named Capstone Project, category type Project
- Choose the setting for traditional grade calculation, Q4 marking period
- Enter as 20% of Q4 grade, make sure all other assignments, quizzes, tests, etc. add up to 80%

Appendix E

Platform: Avant

SPANISH

Results of the STAMP 4S will appear on the Grade 8 Report Card. Since the intent of this assessment is for screening and not grading purposes, the following protocol should be followed:

- Enter the score received in the P6 field
- If a score is at or above 2.5, you should round up
- **EXCEPTION:** Since a score of 2 indicates that the student is at expected levels for Spanish 1, a score of less than 2 does not qualify. Therefore, a score of 1.5 should be rounded down.
- Enter a comment:
 - o Student is at standard (Use for level 2)
 - o Student is above standard (Use for any score greater than 2)
 - o Student is below standard (Use for any score below 2)