

**PLEASE SEE APPENDICES FOR DETAILED INFORMATION  
REGARDING CORE SUBJECT TESTING**

SEPTEMBER 2025						
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** First Day for Students  
**3-4** **PreK-3 & PreK-4** Screening Window (ASQ Screening)  
**5-19** **Grades K-3:** Phonics & Decoding Diagnostic Window  
**8** **NWEA** Fall Testing Window Opens Through 10/3/25  
 Reading Grades K-3, (9 and 10 select teams); Math Grades 7-8;  
 Algebra and Geometry available  
**8** **i-Ready** Reading Diagnostic for Grades 4 - 8 Window Opens  
 Through 10/29/25  
**8-19** **i-Ready** Math Diagnostic Window for Grades 1 - 6  
**8-19** **ELEM: ELA – Grades K-1** Baseline Writing Assessment Window  
**8-26** **Grades K-8:** AIMSweb Plus Benchmark Assessment Window  
**29** **BASC-3 BESS Grades 7-12** Opens Through 10/10/25

OCTOBER 2025						
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** **NWEA** Fall Testing Window Closes  
**4-29** **i-Ready** Math Diagnostic Window for Kindergarten  
**10** **BASC-3 BESS Grade 7-12** Window Closes  
**13** **Holiday - No School**  
**14** **ELEM: BASC-3 BESS for Grades K-6** Window Opens Through  
 11/5/25 (K-4 teacher form) (Grades 5 & 6 student form)  
**27** **ELEM: ELA Grades 3 – 6** Trimester 1 Assessment Window Opens  
 Through 11/7/25 (including makeups)  
**29** **i-Ready** Reading Diagnostic for Grades 4 - 8 Window Closes

NOVEMBER 2025						
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						

- 4** **Superintendent Conference Day – All Levels (Election Day)**  
**5** **ELEM: BASC-3 BESS for Grades K-6** Window Closes (K-4  
 teacher form) (Grades 5 & 6 student form)  
**5-14** **Grade 3, 5, 6 Science** Benchmark Assessment #1 Window  
**7** **ELEM: ELA Grades 3 – 6** Trimester 1 Assessment Closes  
 (including makeups)  
**11** Veterans Day – No School  
**17** **ELEM: ELA Grade 2** Trimester 1 Assessment Window Opens  
 Through 12/5/25 (including makeups)  
**26** No Teachers / No Students / No 10-month Staff  
**27-28** Thanksgiving Break – No School

# Niagara Falls City School District 2025-2026 Assessment Calendar

8/20/25

## DECEMBER 2025

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			

- 3-12 **Grade 4 Science** Benchmark Assessment #1 Window  
5 **ELEM: ELA Grade 2** Trimester 1 Assessment Closes (including makeups)  
10-19 **Grade 7 Science** Benchmark Assessment #1 Window  
19 Last Day of Classes before Winter Recess  
22-31 Winter Recess

## JANUARY 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

- 1-2 Winter Recess  
5 Return from Winter Recess  
6-20 **NWEA** Winter Testing Window  
▪ **K-3 ELA** Mandatory  
7-16 **Grade 3 Science** Benchmark Assessment #2 Window  
7-16 **Grade 8 Science** Benchmark Assessment Window (Excluding those taking Living Environment)  
7-23 **i-Ready** Math Diagnostic Window for Grades K - 6  
7-23 **i-Ready** Reading Diagnostic Window for Grades 4 - 8  
7-28 **ELEM and PREP: AIMSweb** Plus Benchmark Assessment Window  
14-23 **Grade 5 Science** Benchmark Assessment #2 Window  
16 **Superintendent's Conference Day** - ELEM & PREP  
19 Dr. M.L. King Jr. Day – No School  
20-23 **NFHS: Regents** Exams

## FEBRUARY 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

- 2-13 **ELEM: ELA Grades 3 – 6** Trimester 2 Assessment Window (including makeups)  
4-5 **Grade 7 Math & 7 ACC** Midterm (In-Class)  
4-13 **Grade 4 Science** Benchmark Assessment #2 Window  
16 Presidents' Day – No School  
17 Lunar New Year – No School  
18 **Superintendent's Conference Day** - NFHS  
23 **ELEM: CogAT** Testing Window Opens Through 3/6/26  
Grades 1 and 6 and additional grade(s) by recommendation/request

# Niagara Falls City School District 2025-2026 Assessment Calendar

8/20/25

## MARCH 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				

- 2-13 **ELEM: ELA Grade 2** Trimester 2 Assessment Window (including makeups)
- 6 **ELEM:** CogAT Testing Window Closes
- 9 **NYSAA:** Administration Window Opens Through 6/5/26
- 11-20 **Grade 5 Science** Benchmark Assessment #3 Window
- 16-27 **ELEM: ELA Grades 3 – 6** Trimester 3 Assessment (including makeups)
- 18-27 **Grades 6 & 7 Science** Benchmark Assessment #2 Window
- 19 **Superintendent Conference Day – All Levels**
- 30-31 Spring Recess – No Teachers/ No Students/ No 10-month staff

## APRIL 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		

- 1-10 Spring Recess – No Teachers/ No Students/ No 10-month staff
- 3 No 12 Month Staff
- 13 Return from Recess
- 6 **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 5/15/26
- 6 **NYSESLAT** Speaking Window Opens Through 5/22/26
- 15-24 **Grade 4 Science** Benchmark Assessment #3 Window
- 22 **Grade 3 Science** Benchmark Assessment #3 Window Opens Through 5/1/25

## MAY 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						

- 1 **Grade 3 Science** Benchmark Assessment #3 Window Closes
- 4-22 **NYSESLAT** Listening, Reading, Writing Window
- 12 **ELEM: BASC-3 BESS for Grades K-6** (select students receiving interventions only)
- 15 **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
- 22 **NYSESLAT** Speaking Window Closes
- 25 Memorial Day – No Staff/ No Students
- 26 **NWEA** Reading Grades K-3 Spring Testing Window Opens Through 6/17/25
- 26 **STAMP 4S Grade 8 Spanish** Window Opens Through 6/5/25

# Niagara Falls City School District 2025-2026 Assessment Calendar

8/20/25

JUNE 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				

- 1-16 **ELEM: ELA Grade 2** Trimester 3 Assessment Window
- 1-18 **Grades K-8:** AIMSweb Plus Benchmark Assessment
- 5 **NYSAA:** Administration Window Closes
- 5 **STAMP 4S Grade 8 Spanish** Window Closes
- 8-12 **ELEM: ELA – Grades K-1** Summative Writing Assessment
- 8-18 **i-Ready** Math Diagnostic Window for Grades K – 6
- 8-18 **i-Ready** Reading Diagnostic Window for Grades 4 – 8
- 9-10 Regents Exams
- 10-19 **Grades 6 & 7 Science** Benchmark Assessment #3 Window
- 15-23 **Grades 3, & 4 Science** Benchmark Assessment #4 Window
- 17 **NWEA** Reading Grades K-3 Spring Testing Window Closes
- 17 **Grade 7 Math & 7 ACC** Final Exam
- 17-25 Regents Exams
- 19 Juneteenth Observance – No School
- 25 **ELEM & PREP:** Last Day for Students
- 26 **Rating Day** – Last Day for Teachers

## 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

**Literacy Footprint Teachers Only (Grades K-4)**

- 1 Guided Reading Assessment per trimester:  
September, January, and June

**Phonics & Decoding Diagnostics (Grades K – 3)**

- Early September Window

**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

## Appendix B

## Science

CBT using “Inner Orbit” for Grades 3 – 6. Please see note in chart below.

### 2025-26 Grading Schema for Science Grades 3 – 6

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.

Categories to Include in Determining Numerical Grade	Explanation
District Benchmark Assessments from “Inner Orbit”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All Grade 3 – 6 Science Benchmark Assessments</b> 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.</li> </ul>
Unit Classwork and Participation	<p>Must include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Science Journal – Completeness and accuracy of responses with a strong focus on <b>CER statements</b> (these will be a big focus on state assessments, putting priority on them will help students to be prepared for the assessment)</li> <li>• Additional activities outside of the journal if applicable – examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Wolf Research Notebook” in the Unit: Where are the Wolves? (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)</li> <li>○ “Summary Chart” in the Unit: A Walk in the Park (4<sup>th</sup> grade)</li> <li>○ “Deer Diary” in the Unit: Deer, Deer Everywhere (5<sup>th</sup> grade)</li> <li>○ Exit slips, peer/self-evaluations, quizzes, vocabulary activities as included in the BOCES units or created by the teacher</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Grade 5 Generation Genius activities/assessments</li> <li>• Grade 5 NYS test prep</li> </ul>

# Niagara Falls City School District 2025-2026 Assessment Calendar

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Categories to Include in Determining Numerical Grade	Explanation
Unit Performance Task/Assessment	<p><b><u>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where are the Wolves?: CER Statement (last lesson)</li> <li>Investigating Weather and Climate: Travel Destination Project/Presentation</li> <li>Generations of Butterflies: Summative Assessment (found on BOCES4Science website)</li> <li>Invisible Forces: Rube Goldberg Machine Performance Task</li> </ul> <p><b><u>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earth Processes: Final Project/Design Solution (lessons 12 and 13)</li> <li>Riding the Waves: Mystery Breakout Box Task (last lesson) and Summative Assessment (found on BOCES4Science website)</li> <li>A Walk in the Park: Scenario Essay</li> <li>Powering Thru the Fair: Exhibit Hall Performance Task</li> </ul> <p><b><u>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deer, Deer Everywhere: Public Service Announcement</li> <li>Got Water: What's in the Water Performance Task</li> <li>Toys Matter: Master Materials Engineer "Exam"</li> </ul>
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.

## **Appendix C**

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester
- Grades for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)**

- May be completed at anytime during the year
- Will appear on 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report card
- Weighting TBD

### **Grades 7ACC and 8 (not Accelerated) Projects**

- May be administered anytime during the year
- 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 D**

## **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:
  - Student is at standard (Use for level 2)
  - Student is above standard (Use for any score greater than 2)
  - Student is below standard (Use for any score below 2)

## **Appendix E**

## **MATH**

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

**Portfolio:** K – 6 (See Elementary Portfolio Coversheets for specific grade level guidance)

- **K – 1**
  - 3 Math in Action
  - Number Writing
  - Counting (K only)
- **2 – 6**
  - 3 Math in Action