

MAP Testing: Parent Information Letter

September 25, 2017

Dear FAIR Crystal Parent:

During the week of September 25th, your child (grades 4-8) will take a series of tests called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine your child's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, as well as from year to year in the areas of Math and Reading. MAP testing will take place on a computer.

Please make sure your student brings their Chromebook to school and fully charged.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student can succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. MAP tests give the school the ability to administer shorter tests, using less class time, while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. Over the next few days, your child will spend a total of about 2 (grades 4,5) and 4 (grades 6-8) hours completing these tests.

Each school year, students in grades 3-8 take the tests in September and again in January. Following each testing period, you will receive a report showing your child's growth.

We are truly excited to begin a new era that focuses on every child's individual growth and achievement. **Partnering to help all kids learn**, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children.

For more information on resources for parents, please contact your student's teacher, Kelly Burnett (Guidance Counselor) or myself. We would be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Zoraba Ross
Assistant Principal

What is MAP testing?

(taken from the NWEA website's Parent Toolkit document)

MAP, or the Measure of Academic Progress, is a computerized adaptive test which helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students and make informed decisions to promote a child's academic growth.

When will my student be tested and how often?

During the first weeks of school, students will participate in two MAP testing sessions to assess Reading and Mathematics. When taking the MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each test. Students will repeat the tests two more times during the year to continually assess student progress and adapt learning as needed. The mid-year test is a shortened version.

Do all students in the same grade take the same test?

No. This assessment is designed to target a student's academic performance in mathematics, reading, and science. These tests are tailored to an individual's current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. Because the computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions as the test progresses, each student takes a unique test.

What are the MAP test results used for?

MAP is used to measure a student's progress or growth in school. The testing information is important to teachers because it indicates a student's strengths and areas that need help. Teachers can use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom. If you have ever used a growth chart in your home to show how much your child has grown from one year to the next, it will help you understand the scale MAP uses to measure your child's academic progress. The measurement system is called the RIT scale (Rasch unit), and is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. The scale is used to chart your child's academic growth from year to year. RIT scores typically start at the 140 to 190 level in third grade and progress to the 240 to 300 level by high school.

How can I help my child prepare for MAP testing?

- Meet with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress. Working together as a team benefits your child.
- Provide a comfortable, quiet place for studying at home.
- Make sure that your child is well-rested on school days, especially the day of the test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.
- Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new material, a child learns new words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's teacher or media specialist for a suggested outside reading list.

Where can I go for more information about MAP testing?

You can talk with your child's teacher, go directly to the NWEA website and access the Parent's Toolkit document at <http://www.nwea.org>.