

Dear Parents of 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students,

In the next few weeks, your child will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). This is the first time this year the district will be conducting these assessments. The tests are taken on the computer, and questions are “leveled” and vary to determine an accurate data point for each individual child.

We give students MAP tests to determine your child’s instructional level, to measure academic growth throughout the school year, and to measure growth from year to year in the areas of math and reading. The results are used by teachers to help focus on key concepts and set goals with the students.

At the end of the year, you will receive a report of his/her results. Another letter will accompany those results. More information is available from your child’s teacher and / or principal. It is important to remember that this assessment is used to determine instructional level, not to measure achievement.

For more information on NWEA resources for parents, access the Students & Parents tab at www.nwea.org and download the *Parent Toolkit* from the web site.

The following information is provided for parents on how they can help. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

The Night(s) Before the Test

- Try to spend the evening in a good, relaxed mood. Stay in a positive frame of mind. Remember that the test is an opportunity to show what you know.
- Set out necessities. Gather materials such as sharpened pencils, an eraser, glasses if you wear them, and other test-taking necessities.
- Get a good night’s sleep.

The Day(s) of the Test

- Get up early enough so that you won’t need to hurry.
- Eat a good breakfast, but avoid overeating or trying something new.
- Choose comfortable clothes.
- Be sure to arrive at school on time.
- Remain calm and keep a positive attitude.

Test Taking Strategies

- Relax and stay calm before and during tests.
- Read and listen carefully to all directions and follow them closely.
- Budget time. Make sure to leave enough time to answer all questions, or as many as possible.
- Check work carefully.
- Answer easy questions first, and come back to more difficult ones.
- Read questions and all answers completely.
- If the correct answer isn’t immediately obvious, figure out which answers are definitely wrong, then see if you can choose from those that are left.