

Dear Patton Families,

Starting this school year, we will be utilizing a new assessment tool for math and reading. The assessment is STAR 360 a product of Renaissance. This assessment will replace the Group Reading Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation (GRADE) and the Group Math Assessment and Diagnostic Evaluation (GMADE) that have been utilized for the past several years.

STAR 360 will be implemented in all three grades at Patton Middle School. Teachers have been piloting the use of this assessment for the past two years as we considered bringing it into our district. The strengths of this assessment include that it is brief, taking about 20 - 25 minutes to administer, and it is computer-adaptive, in that the assessment adjusts to the student's skill level. STAR 360 data will be used by teachers to help identify student instructional needs as well as to provide benchmark information to parents on student achievement and growth. It is aligned with the Pennsylvania Core Standards and will provide teachers and students important data as students progress through the academic year.

The following link to a parent guide will provide additional information regarding the assessment.

[STAR 360 Parent Guide](#)

The assessment windows will be in September, January, and May. Results will be shared during our Student-Led Conferences using the My Story digital student portfolios and through the mail. Please contact me, Mr. Hoffman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, or Mr. Nolen, Assistant Superintendent if you have questions or concerns regarding this assessment.

Sincerely,



Steve Dissinger - Principal