

# **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) Screener**

2020-21 Academic Year

## **What is it?**

The CogAT Screener is a nationally standardized assessment that measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in verbal, quantitative (numbers), and non-verbal areas. This assessment measures the cognitive development of each student whom is assessed. The Screener is a shortened version of the full CogAT. It uses approximately 14 questions from each of the three subtests above to produce a score for each student.

## **Why is this assessment given?**

Throughout life, a student is developing reasoning and problem-solving skills. The CogAT Screener is given to determine in what areas students are meeting national norms (typical scores) as measured by this assessment. It also assesses at which stage of cognitive growth each student falls on a continuous growth scale. The CogAT Screener is only one piece of information used to help educators make student placement decisions for Advanced Learner support.

## **Who takes this assessment?**

CogAT is a K-12 assessment and is useful in measuring students' learned reasoning abilities at any elementary school grade. All second grade MMSD students will take the assessment.

## **How is the test given?**

The CogAT Screener is an online screener, in three different parts. It addresses the verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal skills learned by students. The total time, including the student "warm up", is approximately 60 minutes.

## **When is the test given?**

The test is given once a year. The district window for the CogAT in 2020 - 21 is 2/1 – 2/26. This may change based on potential changes with instructional methods (virtual vs. face-to-face).

## **How will results be shared?**

Results are one of several data points used to help determine which students require Advanced Learner support. Reports for all students will be mailed out via US mail. These reports will contain information about how to read the scores and what each score means, as well as to how it can be used to support learning.

## **How does this assessment reflect my child's performance?**

As with any assessment, this is only one measure of your student's academic performance. It is only through *multiple* assessments (for example, teacher developed assessments, state and district assessments) that we are able to develop a clearer picture of your student's current level of performance as well as their growth over time.

For more information, contact: Tim Peterson

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