

Miller Place Union Free School District

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To Parents/Guardians of students in Kindergarten through second grade:

All Andrew Muller Primary School students are assessed throughout the year to ensure that they are making grade level progress. While the New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires that all students are assessed to ensure growth, assessments administered at the Andrew Muller Primary School for this purpose are *not* developed by NYSED. These assessments are teacher written in alignment with programs used at the school or created by an outside company to help measure student progress with accuracy. Noted below are a series of frequently asked questions regarding these assessments:

What are benchmark assessments?

Benchmark assessments are administered two to three times per year as indicated in our Response to Intervention Plan. They provide information about student growth based on grade level standards. Some examples of benchmarks include but are not limited to Fountas & Pinnell or Journeys reading benchmarks to measure/assess fluency and comprehension. In Kindergarten and in first grade most benchmarks are administered in a one-to-one situation. In grade two the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessment is administered, which provides information about areas of students' strengths and weaknesses and achievement in comparison to students around the country.

What are common assessments?

Common assessments were developed by our teachers at the Andrew Muller Primary School. Questions were developed in alignment with NYS Learning Standards. They are administered at the beginning and end of the school year to ensure that students have learned grade level material. These assessments also provide information to help us modify and align curriculum as necessary and as required by NYSED.

What are summative assessments?

Summative assessments are administered at the end of the unit of study such as math module tests, Journeys comprehension tests, spelling tests or vocabulary tests.

What is formative assessment?

Formative assessment is any assessment that is observable by the teacher but is not graded. Examples of formative assessment include but are not limited to writing samples, homework, exit tickets, questions asked, questions answered and classwork.

How is intervention service determined?

Intervention service is determined using multiple factors: Teacher input, formative assessment, summative assessments, common assessments and benchmarks. When there are multiple factors indicating concerns about student achievement, a progress monitoring probe is administered (taking approximately 1-4 minutes) to determine whether it is a skill based or performance based issue.

What is progress monitoring?

If students are in need of intervention services they are “progress monitored” using the AIMSweb, once every 10-15 days of instruction to ensure that the rate of progress is increasing and that the intervention is effective.

Can I opt my child out?

There are no state assessments in Kindergarten, first or second grades. Therefore, there are no assessments where parents/guardians can “opt out” at the Andrew Muller Primary School. All assessments at the Andrew Muller Primary school are used to determine student progress, to differentiate instruction, to place students in appropriate reading groups, strategy groups or intervention services.

Can I see the results of all assessments?

Graded work is shared with parents/guardians such as classwork and summative assessments. Some assessments are not graded. They provide information to help teachers guide instruction. All pertinent information about your child’s progress is shared with you on our report cards and through conferences.

The district recognizes that these may be the most common questions parents/guardians have, but if you have additional questions please feel free to contact your child’s principal.

Sincerely,

Susan G. Craddock
Assistant Superintendent