



August 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Good afternoon! It is wonderful seeing everyone prepare for the first day of school! It is going to be such a great school year. Between August 21st and September 11th all K-7 students will take the NWEA MAP assessment. You will receive communication directly from your student's teacher/school concerning the specific date that your student will be assessed. Teachers will have access to this data 24 hours after the students are assessed. This data helps teachers understand what students know today. Students cannot pass or fail this test. These results will help us know what your student is ready to learn and will assist in the design of instruction to meet your student's specific needs. Parents will receive a progress report about their student during the week of September 25th.

MAP tests are different from most other standardized tests in that it is an *adaptive test*. When your student answers a question correctly, the test increases the difficulty level of the next question. When your student answers a question incorrectly, the test decreases the difficulty level of the next question. In fact, the assessment is designed so that students answer approximately 50% of the questions correctly.

We have some tips that parents can share with the students to make for a more successful testing session:

- Please take time to discuss the importance of these tests with your student.
- Once a student locks in an answer on the computer, s/he cannot go back and make corrections, so please reinforce the importance of reading carefully.
- The test will continue to increase in difficulty as the student correctly answers questions. Let your student know that if they come across a really hard question, then they must be doing really well!
- We have discovered that some students race through the test just so they can see their score. Careless errors due to racing through the test can deflate the RIT score and give incorrect information on the student's instructional level.

For more information on MAP resources for parents, access the Document Library at www.nwea.org. For any questions, please contact your building administrator or classroom teacher.

Sincerely,

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