

October 2023

Dear Caregiver,

The Glendale-River Hills School District utilizes Star Assessments, a district-wide comprehensive literacy and math universal screener that is used as an assessment tool for students.

The Star Assessments by Renaissance are computer adaptive assessments that provide teachers with current, reliable and valid data quickly so they can target instruction, monitor progress, provide students with appropriate instructional materials, intervene for students needing additional supports, as well as provide extension opportunities for students needing additional challenges. This system of assessments will be used not only to inform data-based decisions, but to support instructional frameworks such as Response to Intervention (RtI) and/or Multi-Level System of Supports (MLSS).

Star Assessments are administered three times a year: during the fall, winter, and spring. Winter testing will occur January 8-19, 2024 and spring testing will occur May 6-17, 2024. These dates can also be found on the District Assessment Calendar at [bit.ly/GDRHTesting](http://bit.ly/GDRHTesting).

#### Helpful Resources for Families

- Parents Intro to Star Assessments: [bit.ly/StarFamilyResources](http://bit.ly/StarFamilyResources)
- Star Early Literacy Sample Items: [bit.ly/StarEarlyLitSample](http://bit.ly/StarEarlyLitSample)
- Star Reading Sample Items: [bit.ly/StarReadingSample](http://bit.ly/StarReadingSample)
- Star Math Sample Items: [bit.ly/StarMathSample](http://bit.ly/StarMathSample)
- Star Family Reports: [bit.ly/StarFamilyReport](http://bit.ly/StarFamilyReport)

#### **What are Star Assessments?**

Star Assessments by Renaissance are short computer-adaptive tests that measure reading, math, and early literacy skills. Star tests are computer adaptive, which means they adjust to each answer your child provides. This helps teachers get the best data to help your child in the shortest amount of testing time (about one-third of the time other tests take).

Your child's teacher will use the data from Star Assessments to answer essential questions he or she has about your child's learning needs and to improve academic outcomes for all the students in the class. Your child may take a Star test for early literacy, reading and math.

#### **What do teachers do with Star Assessments?**

Teachers analyze the data they get from Star Assessments to learn what students already know and what they are ready to learn next, to monitor student growth, and to determine which students may need additional help. Star Assessments are heavily researched and scientifically proven to help teachers guide each student on his or her unique path to mastery.

## What do Star Assessments do for my child?

By pinpointing exactly what your child knows\*, teachers can personalize your child’s practice to keep them growing. Plus, short test times ensure your child spends more time learning and less time testing.

*\*These results are considered in combination with other classroom assessments.*

## How can I help my child with their Star Assessments?

The best way to help your child with Star Assessments is to help them understand why they are taking the test: So their teacher knows exactly how to help them learn! For anxious children, it may be important to tell them that they cannot fail a Star test—as long as they do their best, the data generated from the test will help their teacher teach them more great things!

## Where do I go if I have questions?

Your child’s teacher is the best source of additional information about your child’s progress with Star Assessments. Renaissance is committed to protecting student privacy and will not share data with anyone outside your child’s authorized school staff.

## What does each assessment measure? What kind of score does my child get?

Assessment	Grade Levels	Domains Assessed	Report	Score Range
Star Early Literacy	K5 - 3rd Developing Readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alphabetic Principle, Concept of Word, &amp; Visual Discrimination</li><li>• Phonemic Awareness</li><li>• Phonics</li><li>• Structural Analysis &amp; Vocabulary</li><li>• Sentence- &amp; Paragraph-Level Comprehension</li></ul>	Star Parent Report	Scaled Score (SS): 200-1100  Percentile Rank (PR): 1-99
Star Reading	1st - 8th Independent Readers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Word Knowledge and Skills</li><li>• Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning</li><li>• Analyzing Literary Text</li><li>• Understanding Author’s Craft</li><li>• Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text</li></ul>	Star Family Report	Scaled Score (SS): 600-1400  Domain Score: 0-100
Star Math	1st - 8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Numbers and Operations</li><li>• Algebra</li><li>• Geometry and Measurement</li><li>• Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability</li></ul>	Star Family Report	Scaled Score (SS): 600-1400  Domain Score: 0-100

Each report contains information to assist you in understanding your child’s score and performance. In reviewing the report, it is important to remember that any assessment provides only one snapshot of your child’s development and growth in math and literature. The teacher’s daily observations and interactions with your child provide the most comprehensive overview of how your child is learning/developing.

In the report, you will see a **scaled score (SS)**, which is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct answers. Scaled scores are useful for comparing your child’s performance over time and across

grades. This scaled score utilizes the Star Unified Scale, an improved way of understanding performance as students transition from pre-readers taking Star Early Literacy to independent readers taking Star Reading. *First grade families should note that if their child demonstrated proficiency on Star Early Literacy this fall, they progressed to/were administered the Star Reading assessment as well. If applicable to your family, both results will be included in this mailing.*

For the Star Early Literacy assessment only, you will also see a **percentile rank (PR) score**. The Percentile Rank score compares your child’s test performance with that of other students nationally in the same grade. For example, a PR of 37 would mean that your child’s skills in the tested area are greater than 37% of students nationally in the same grade. The PR Range indicates that, if your child had taken the assessment numerous times, most of his/her scores would likely have fallen within this range.

For the Star Reading and Star Math assessments only, you will see **domain scores**. These scores estimate your child’s mastery of each domain for the student’s grade level. For example, a domain score of 50 for a third grader means the student would be expected to answer correctly about 50 percent of the third-grade items in that domain. *Please note: Students are not expected to have mastery of grade-level skills at the beginning of the year. Students are taught skills throughout the year and should move towards mastery as the school year progresses.*

Star Parent Report Example	Star Family Report Example																																														
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-weight: bold;">A</div> <div>Student <b>Avery, Melysa</b></div> <div style="text-align: right;">Grade <b>3rd</b></div> <div style="text-align: right;">Teacher <b>Albertson, J.</b></div> <div style="text-align: right;">Class/Group <b>Class 16A, Albertson</b></div> </div> <hr/> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>Parent Report for Melysa Avery</b> <span style="float: right; font-size: small;">Student ID: x123y4z5-a67b-8c9d-01f2-gh34567jklm</span> </div> <hr/> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <td>School</td> <td>Teacher</td> <td>Class</td> <td>Grade</td> <td>Test Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>East Elementary School</td> <td>Albertson, J.</td> <td>Class 16A, Albertson</td> <td>3rd</td> <td>October 13, 2021</td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <p style="font-size: x-small;"><b>Dear Parent or Guardian of Melysa Avery:</b> Melysa has taken a Star Reading computer-adaptive reading test. This report summarizes your child’s scores on the test. As with any test, many factors can affect a student’s scores. It is important to understand that these test scores provide only one picture of how your child is doing in school.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="font-size: x-small;">PR: 54    Range: 48-59</p> </div> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;"><b>613</b></td> <td>Melysa’s Scaled Score is based on the difficulty of questions and the number of correct responses. The Unified Scale has a range of 0-1400.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>54</b></td> <td>Melysa’s skills are higher than 54% of students nationally in the same grade. This score is average. The PR Range indicates that if Melysa had taken the test many times, most of his/her scores would likely have been between 48 and 59.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>4.3</b></td> <td>GE scores range from 0.0 to 12.9+. Based on national norms, Melysa’s reading skills are at a level greater than a typical 3rd grader. The score does not necessarily indicate the ability to read independently at this grade level.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>6.9</b></td> <td>IRL is the grade level at which Melysa is at least 80% proficient recognizing words and comprehending reading materials. Melysa has achieved an IRL score of 6.9, which means he/she is at least 80% proficient at reading sixth grade level materials.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>850L - 1000L</b></td> <td>The Lexile® Range spans reading levels that are appropriately challenging for reading practice. Melysa should be selecting books in this range for optimal growth in reading. This range is approximate. Success at any reading level depends on your child’s interest and prior knowledge of a book’s content.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>52.1</b></td> <td>Melysa’s NCE score shows that 52.1% of students in the norms group in the same grade obtained lower scores than Melysa did.</td> </tr> </table> <p style="font-size: x-small;">I will be using these Star Reading test scores to help Melysa further develop his/her reading skills for reading practice at school. If you have any questions about your child’s scores or these recommendations, please contact me at your convenience.</p> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: x-small;"> <span>Teacher Signature _____ Date _____</span> <span>Parent Signature _____ Date _____</span> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Additional comments may be added on the back of this sheet.</p> </div>	School	Teacher	Class	Grade	Test Date	East Elementary School	Albertson, J.	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The scale has a range of 0-1400. This score results in a placement in <b>Level 2</b>, below the target of Level 3. It is higher than 37% of students in third grade and is typical of a <b>3rd grade student after the second month of the year.</b></div> </div> </div> <div style="margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">California Grade 3 Score Levels</div> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Bella: 613</p> </div> <div style="margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">Domain Scores</div> <p style="font-size: x-small;">These scores range from 0-100, and represent Bella’s estimated percent of mastery at a third-grade level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">■</span> Beginning: 0-59 percent mastery</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">■</span> Developing: 60-79 percent mastery</li> <li><span style="color: green;">■</span> Secure: 80-100 percent mastery</li> </ul> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: x-small;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Literature</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Score</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Informational Text</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Score</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Key Ideas and Details</td> <td style="text-align: right;">37</td> <td>Key Ideas and Details</td> <td style="text-align: right;">39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity</td> <td style="text-align: right;">28</td> <td>Craft and Structure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">62</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Integration of Knowledge and Ideas</td> <td style="text-align: right;">66</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Language</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>Score</b></td> <td>Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity</td> <td style="text-align: right;">32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vocabulary Acquisition and Use</td> <td style="text-align: right;">74</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <div style="margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">Reading Recommendation</div> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD): 0.9 - 1.9 Bella’s ZPD identifies books at the right level to provide appropriate reading challenge without frustration. Enter Bella’s ZPD of 0.9 - 1.9 in <a href="#">ARBookFinder.com</a> to find books at that level.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; font-size: x-small;"> <div>Scan here or go to <a href="#">renaissance.com/star-scores</a> to learn more about what all of these scores mean and how you can help your child succeed!</div> </div> </div> <hr/> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">© 2021 Renaissance Learning, Inc. All rights reserved.</p> </div>	Literature	Score	Informational Text	Score	Key Ideas and Details	37	Key Ideas and Details	39	Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	28	Craft and Structure	62			Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	66	<b>Language</b>	<b>Score</b>	Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	32	Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	74		
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For more detailed information about the STAR Assessments, please go to [renaissance.com/products/star-assessments](https://renaissance.com/products/star-assessments).