

COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEVEN

Michael Gaal, Superintendent
Brandan Comfort, Chief Resource Officer

School Accountability (SAC) Training Agenda

January 25, 2024

Tesla-room 116/129 and via WebEx

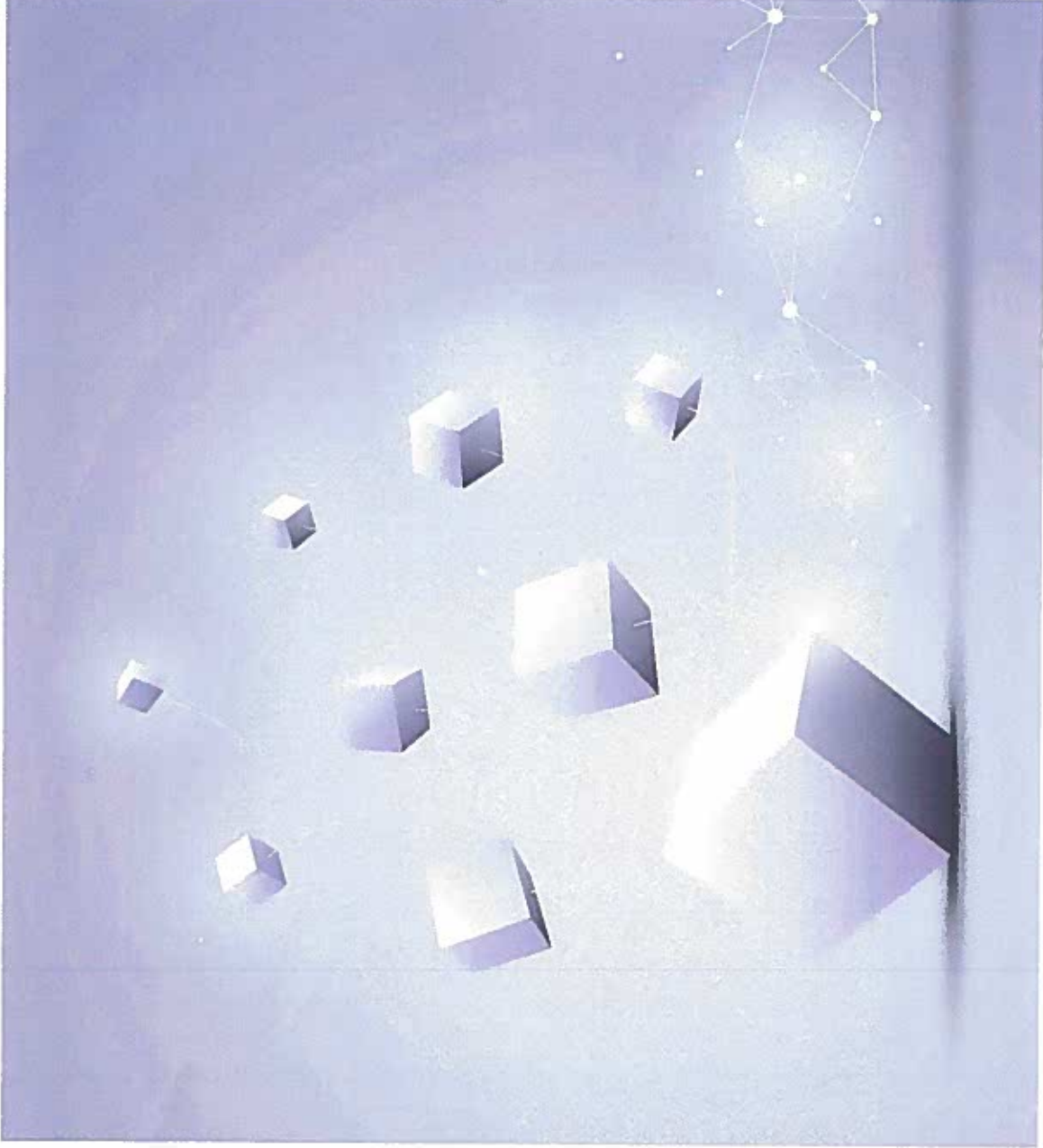
6:00pm – 8:00pm

- 6:00 – 6:05 pm **Welcome and Introductions**
Velvet Stepanek – Training and SAC Support Chair
- 6:05 – 6:15pm **How Trailblazer ES has been successful in attracting students – Ken Pfeil, Principal**
- 6:15 – 7:05pm **Mid-year Data – Dr. David Khaliqi, Chief of Strategy & Data Acquisition/Natasha Crouse, Director-Metrics & Accountability**
- How data coaches are supporting schools
 - What can SACs ask about data?
 - How STAR test work
- 7:05 – 7:55pm **Budget Overview – Dr. Brandan Comfort, Chief Resource Officer**
- Overview/understanding of school budgets
 - Allovue Tool
 - Student Based Budgeting (SBB)
 - SAC Budget Handbook
- 7:55 – 8:00pm **Closing/Door Prize, Velvet Stepanek, Training & SAC Support Chair**

Mid-Year Data

Dr. David Khalilqj, Chief of Strategy and Data Acquisition

Natasha Crouse, Director of Metrics and Accountability



How does Star work?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALBTKFOPZwQ> (Chapters 1-6)



District Benchmark Performance Levels

Determine if students are performing at grade level expectations

STAR performance bands are normed to the Colorado Performance Framework bands

Used to determine “point-in-time” student achievement based on standards (criterion referenced)

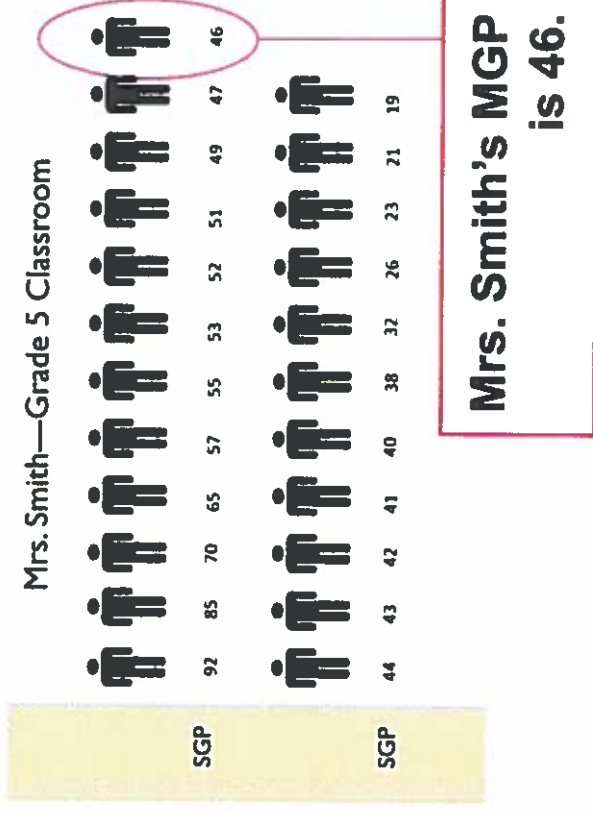


District Benchmark Median Growth Percentile (MGP)

Middle value of a group of student's performance ranking from 1 to 99 compared to a like grouping of students

STAR growth percentiles are normed across a national sample

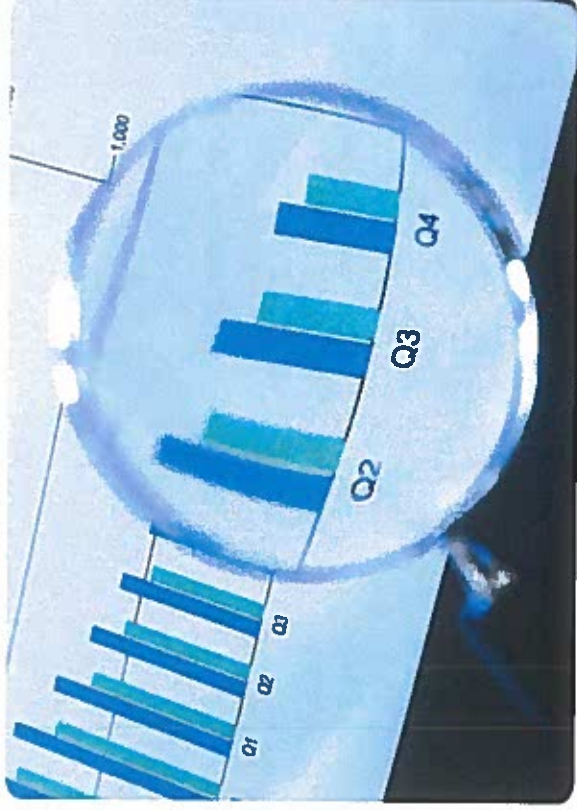
Used to compare D11 students to their peers around the country (norm referenced)



What can
SACs ask
about the
data?

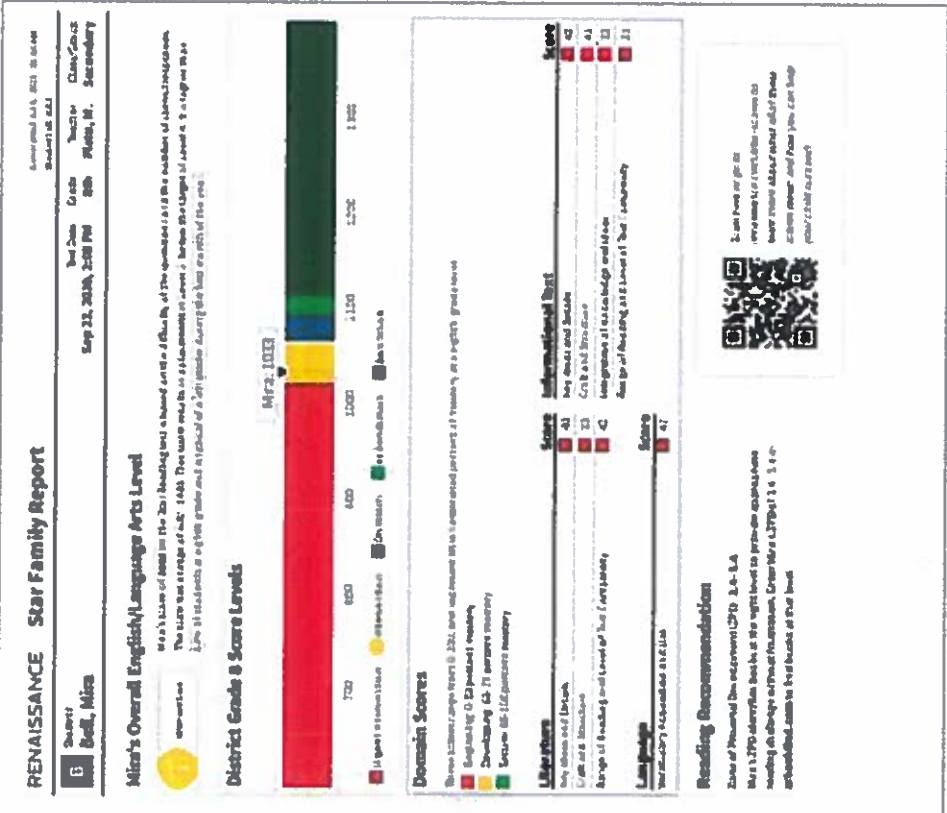
*What is the Median Growth
Percentile for (school, grade,
demographic group)?*

How Data Coaches are Supporting Schools with Star



- Equipping UIP check-in teams with data:
 - Achievement data aligned to CMAS predictions
 - Growth data
 - Data disaggregated by demographics
- Coaching on the Star Reports that are New to Mid-year Reporting:
 - Student Growth Percentiles (SGP)
 - Median Student Growth Percentiles (M-SGP/MGP)





Scaled Score (SS) (Example: 1033)

Scaled Score is useful for comparing student performance over time and across grades. A scaled score is calculated based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct responses.

Benchmark Categories (Example: Level 2)

Each state or school district has established unique benchmarks that students must reach to be considered proficient. Use the Star Family Report to determine if your child is meeting expectations.

Percentile Rank (PR) (Example: 13)

Percentile Rank (PR) ranges from 1-99 and compares student performance to other students in the same grade nationwide. For example, a student with a percentile rank score of 37 performed as well as or better than 37 percent of other students in the same grade nationally.

Grade Equivalent (GE)—Optional

Grade Equivalent scores show how your child's test performance compares with that of other students nationally. For example, a second-grade student with a GE of 3.2 performed as well on Star as a typical third grader after the second month of the school year. This score doesn't necessarily mean that the student is capable of doing third-grade work. Instead, it indicates that this student's skills are above average for the second grade.

Domain Scores

Ranging from 0-100, domain 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.

What can parents do to support their child with Star?

Goal setting:

- *Your score last time was _____. You've learned a lot since then. Are you ready to beat that score?*

Remind children that the test is designed to change in difficulty.

- Some items may be too easy, some too hard, and as the test proceeds items will become just right.
- It is okay to not know all the answers—they just need to do their best.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR STAR PARENT EMAILS

Parents can set up email updates about their child's progress and scores when their child finishes a STAR assessment.

SIGNING UP



Follow the steps in this link/QR for directions on setting up email updates.

<https://tinyurl.com/star-for-parents>



REPORT OVERVIEW

<https://tinyurl.com/star-report-explained>



DESCRIPCIÓN GENERAL DEL INFORME

<https://tinyurl.com/star-explicada>



TO UNSUBSCRIBE

<https://tinyurl.com/star-unsubscribe>



Star Reading sample items

Domain	Kindergarten*	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Word Knowledge and Skills Covers knowledge and understanding of vocabulary as well as the ability to use the strategies.	Domain not applicable at Kindergarten.	<p>Jake will build her pants every day. She will give them food that is good for them. What does food mean?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> to give food to <input checked="" type="radio"/> to feed a fish <input type="radio"/> to play with </p>	<p>Don't like to write letters to his friends. Which word has the same base word as write?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> like <input type="radio"/> read <input checked="" type="radio"/> writing </p>	<p>I am DECREASED to understand how to play the game. Which word means the same as DECREASE?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> knowing <input checked="" type="radio"/> starting <input type="radio"/> leaving </p>
Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning Covers strategies such as self-monitoring, making predictions, drawing conclusions, and using organizational structure of text to improve understanding.	<p>I like to drive all _____.</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> like <input type="radio"/> eat <input checked="" type="radio"/> like <input type="radio"/> like </p>	<p>Both sides the bus to school. She sits with him. After school, the girls ride the bus home. They talk about their day. How do the girls get home?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> They walk home. <input checked="" type="radio"/> They ride the bus. <input type="radio"/> They receive gifts from it. </p>	<p>Everyone ate the biggest apple on land. They ate the apple until they were empty very fast if they could. What shows how big apples are?</p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> They can be over twenty feet long. <input type="radio"/> They can move very fast. <input type="radio"/> They have short tails. </p>	<p>Kerry pulled up her nose and grabbed her bike. She only started the motor for a few minutes. She stopped to look at her pocket and put it on the bike basket. Why does Kerry take off her jacket?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> It doesn't fit anymore. <input type="radio"/> It is a new jacket. <input checked="" type="radio"/> She is too warm. </p>
Analyzing Literary Text Covers the exploration of plot, setting, character, theme, and point of view in literary text, as well as the characteristics of different genres.	<p>Lisa and Chad are in the car. They went for a ride. How they will go home. Where is Lisa?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> in her room <input checked="" type="radio"/> in a school <input type="radio"/> in a car </p>	<p>Nemo lived in a blue house. Everything was blue. The food was blue. The grass was blue. Everything was blue but one thing. What was not blue. What kind of story is this?</p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> a non-fiction story <input type="radio"/> a story about a real person <input type="radio"/> a story that reads like </p>	<p>Clay lived in a big tree. Like other squirrels, he worked hard finding nuts. One day he found a nut that was so big that he could not carry it. "My squirrel," called the nut to him. "That's a nut?" Who is the story about?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> a different kind of nut <input type="radio"/> a nut that was so big <input checked="" type="radio"/> a silly squirrel named Clay </p>	<p>Headed for the store, and the shop owner smiled at her. "Good to see you, Luke," he said. "The shop is supposed to have all the products you'll find in the store. Why don't you hurry take all her jacket?"</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> Luke <input type="radio"/> the shop owner <input type="radio"/> the shoppers </p>

*There are currently no sample items available for Word Knowledge and Skills or in Understanding Author's Craft, although they are tested at the kindergarten level.

Star Reading sample items

Domain	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
<p>Understanding Author's Craft</p> <p>Covers the understanding and analysis of an author's use of language and literary devices to create certain effects.</p>	<p>I like my yellow coat. I put it on when it is raining. It makes a funny noise when I walk.</p> <p>Which word tells what the coat looks like?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> raining <input checked="" type="radio"/> yellow <input type="radio"/> noise </p>	<p>Anna pointed at one of the rabbits in the pen. "That's the one I want," she whispered to her brother. "Its coat is the color of snow."</p> <p>Which words tell you what the rabbit looks like?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> in the pen <input type="radio"/> the one I want <input checked="" type="radio"/> the color of snow </p>	<p>A man from the zoo brought some birds to Ray's class. One was blue-gray with dark bands on its tail. Another had a light face and great big eyes. The children got to pet one of the smaller birds. When Ray petted it, he could see it had yellow eyes.</p> <p>The paragraph shows how the birds _____</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> feel <input checked="" type="radio"/> look <input type="radio"/> smell </p>
<p>Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text</p> <p>Covers the recognition, analysis, and evaluation of argument in persuasive, editorial, and academic writing.</p>	<p>Domain not applicable at Grade 1.</p>	<p>Domain not applicable at Grade 2.</p>	<p>Domain not applicable at Grade 3.</p>

Star Reading sample items

Domain	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
<p>Word Knowledge and Skills</p> <p>Covers knowledge and understanding of vocabulary as well as the ability to use the strategies.</p>	<p>Trevon told he was ready to read his story to the entire school.</p> <p>What does <i>entire</i> mean in the sentence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 enough 2 a kind of cloth 3 touched 	<p>The long procession that today would be a holiday.</p> <p>What is the meaning of <i>procession</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 announced or declared in public 2 whispered with kind words 3 described in great detail 	<p>Which word creates the most positive feeling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 trail 2 fragile 3 delicate
<p>Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning</p> <p>Covers strategies such as self-monitoring, making predictions, drawing conclusions, and using organizational structure of text to improve understanding.</p>	<p>My cat is a wonderful friend, and he has beautiful orange fur. I often find him sitting in my room near the window. My cats fur looks most beautiful in the golden light.</p> <p>Which statement is a fact rather than an opinion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The cat is a wonderful friend. 2 The cat often sits near the window. 3 The cats fur is most beautiful in golden light. 	<p>In 1840, thousands of homesteaders arrived in California. They had come from all over America, from big cities and small towns and farms. Some arrived from Europe. They were there to strike gold or to make money from those miners who did find the shiny metal. They set up camps and struggled to learn the ways of mining. Some really did strike it rich, but most barely got by.</p> <p>For what purpose was the paragraph written?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 to inform readers about a historical event 2 to entertain readers with a story about mining 3 to persuade readers to try to strike it rich 	<p>Have you ever seen a mirage? On a hot, sunny day you might have seen one. You might see something that looks like water on the road in the distance. As you approach, the "water" might suddenly seem to move farther away. Then you will know it is a mirage. It is a trick of light, and there really is no water there.</p> <p>How does the author inform the reader about mirages?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The author explains the difference between different kinds of mirages. 2 The author presents several questions and answers about mirages. 3 The author gives an example of a mirage and then explains that it is a trick of light.
<p>Analyzing Literary Text</p> <p>Covers the exploration of plot, setting, character, theme, and point of view in literary text, as well as the characteristics of different genres.</p>	<p>Trevon rolled down the sidewalk on his skateboard. He tried to move fast because he didn't want to be late for practice. However, his skateboard was not up to it. Trevon thought the wheels might need to be oiled. He kept glancing at his watch and worrying. Then Trevon saw the playing field up ahead. He was going to be on time.</p> <p>What is Trevon's problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 His watch is broken, so he doesn't know what time it is. 2 His skateboard is going slow, and he's worried he might be late. 3 His skateboard wheels need oil, but he doesn't have any. 	<p>Ma was reading the book when she saw her friend Kura and waved. He was glad to see Ma, but she didn't look long. He needed to finish the book because her report was due tomorrow.</p> <p>"That's okay," said Ma. "I can get with you and read my book too!" Then the two girls happily sat under a big oak tree and read their books.</p> <p>Which best describes Ma and Kura's friendship?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 They compete with each other. 2 They know each other well. 3 They have a hard time getting along. 	<p>Shirley Robinson painted the shiny paint on the antique motorcycle. The motorcycle was the same color as the one she had bought in 1958 when it was brand-new. He rode a few days, but she didn't like it. She sold it to her brother. Now, years later, Mrs. Robinson still enjoys riding the motorcycle on clear, sunny afternoons. Every time she goes for a ride, she thinks of her great-grandfather.</p> <p>How does the motorcycle help show the theme of the story?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The motorcycle has shiny paint but is very old and probably falling apart. 2 The motorcycle is Mrs. Robinson's connection to her great-grandfather. 3 The great-grandfather loved the motorcycle, but Shirley Robinson does not.

Star Reading sample items

Domain	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
<p>Understanding Author's Craft</p> <p>Covers the understanding and analysis of an author's use of language and literary devices to create certain effects</p>	<p>Brenda watched the colorful jellyfish swim in their tank. They moved about like leaves caught in the wind, like dancers. Brenda enjoyed seeing all the animals at the aquarium. However, the jellyfish were the most fun to watch. They were beautiful and graceful but nothing she'd ever seen.</p> <p>What does it mean that the jellyfish moved "like leaves caught in the wind, like dancers"?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 They swam around and moved smoothly. 2 They were being blown by the wind. 3 They moved in time to music that was playing. 	<p>Mark noticed a friend fishing nearby. His friend's son was placing peanuts butter on a sandwich before dropping the line into the water. That scene made Mark think of another boy he had seen fishing at the lake.</p> <p>"Mark, if you like it, he could sit near his grandfather's voice."</p> <p>"But Grandpa," Mark would say, "wouldn't they want him too?" Then they would laugh and laugh.</p> <p>Thinking of his grandfather, Mark went over to his friend.</p> <p>"Need to borrow any jinn?" he asked.</p> <p>Which part of the story is in a flashback to the past?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Mark talks to his grandfather. 2 Mark goes over to his friend. 3 Mark notices a friend fishing nearby. 	<p>Kana said her stack of library books was nearly a table high.</p> <p>Kana probably said this to explain that she _____.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 has many books to read. 2 is trying to break a world record. 3 needs to visit the library.
<p>Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text</p> <p>Covers the recognition, analysis, and evaluation of argument in persuasive, editorial, and academic writing.</p>	<p>If you want a pet like a dog, you should first get a goldfish. A goldfish can help you learn how to take care of a pet. You can take care of a goldfish every day. You have to feed them the right amount every day. You have to keep their tank clean. If you like caring for a goldfish, you might be ready for a bigger pet.</p> <p>How does the author support the main claim?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The author gives facts showing that goldfish are easier to care of than bigger pets. 2 The author explains how taking care of a goldfish can show you are ready for a bigger pet. 3 The author tells a story about how having a goldfish helped her get ready to take care of a dog. 	<p>The school should start a publishing club. I personally already make great zines and comic books. Some people, however, need plenty of help. We have clubs for people who play sports, play chess, or paint. There is no club for people who want to learn how to publish their own work. Publishing could even become a career for students someday. Please add the publishing club soon.</p> <p>Which is the strongest reason for starting a publishing club?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Publishing could even become a career for students someday. 2 We have clubs for people who play sports, play chess, or paint. 3 I personally already make great zines and comic books. 	<p>Be prepared to laugh your socks off at this year's fabulous school show. It is a complete giggle fest. Our excellent script is stocked full of genuine belly laughs. Our performers deliver each piece with professional ease. The jokes fly as fast as lightning bolts. You will never release the curtain call, you'll be gasping with laughter as you're heading for home.</p> <p>What does the paragraph use to convince people to go to the show?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 It uses the bandwagon technique to convince readers everyone else likes it. 2 It includes the opinion of an expert who loved the show. 3 It uses loaded words like fabulous, excellent, and professional.

Star Reading sample items

Domain	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
<p>Word Knowledge and Skills</p> <p>Covers knowledge and understanding of vocabulary as well as the ability to use the strategies</p>	<p>When a submarine is just below the surface, sailors can use a periscope. A telescope allows people to see far away into space. What does a periscope allow the people in a submarine to do?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 breathe while the submarine is underwater 2 see around the surface above them 3 travel much faster through the ocean 	<p>Our cause is just, and it is my _____ belief that we will eventually prevail. Which synonym of <i>pastorale</i> would fit best in the sentence above?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 emotional 2 ardent 3 formal 	<p>During Hawk's presentation, someone came into the classroom on an errand from the office. The interruption made him <u>lose his train of thought</u> momentarily, but fortunately he had good notes.</p> <p>What does <i>lose his train of thought</i> mean in the sentence?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The interruption is terribly noisy. 2 The presentation is about transportation. 3 Hank forgot what he is thinking of.
<p>Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning</p> <p>Covers strategies such as self-monitoring, making predictions, drawing conclusions, and using organizational structure of text to improve understanding.</p>	<p>There are names for different types of clouds. Layered clouds that form low when close to the ground are called stratus clouds. Puffy clouds that rise and high up. The puffy white clouds you see in the sky on sunny days are called cumulus clouds. Huge cumulonimbus clouds bring rain showers and sometimes thunderstorms. Anomalous clouds bring rain and snow.</p> <p>You look up in the sky and see cumulonimbus clouds. What kind of weather might you have?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 sunny 2 stormy 3 foggy 	<p>When objects fall, they accelerate. All objects accelerate at the same rate due to the force of gravity. However, everyone knows that if you drop a rock and a feather at the same time, the rock will drop faster. This is because of the drag force. The drag force is a force that opposes the motion of an object as it moves through a fluid. The drag on the feather is greater than on the rock, so the feather will fall more slowly.</p> <p>Why does the feather fall more slowly?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Gravity is not as strong on the feather. 2 There is greater drag force on the feather. 3 The feather speeds up faster than the rock. 	<p>How hard is it to learn to play the bagpipes, you ask? I once knew a notable scholar who was trying to learn to play them. She said it sure was a good thing she was a robot scientist because the bagpipes were hard!</p> <p>How does the purpose of the passage affect the author's tone?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The author takes a light tone as part of trying to entertain. 2 The author uses a formal tone to give information on the subject. 3 The author is sarcastic to persuade readers not to play the bagpipes.
<p>Analyzing Literary Text</p> <p>Covers the exploration of plot, setting, character, theme, and point of view in literary text, as well as the characteristics of different genres.</p>	<p>There was too much cleaning to do in Colleen's house. She found it difficult to organize her tasks and deal with them in the right order of importance. Colleen decided to fill the kitchen sink with clean soap and water and scrub the pots. As she scrubbed, she thought about her messy room. She realized that she should make a list and number her tasks in their order of importance.</p> <p>How is the conflict resolved?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Colleen becomes familiar with the household chores. 2 Colleen clears her thoughts by washing dishes. 3 Colleen finishes her tasks in their order of importance. 	<p>The historic hotel lobby was dimly lit and as quiet as a library. The dusty creak of carpeting swallowed the sound of Jan's footsteps. She peered at the desk before tapping lightly on the service bell. She hoped the proprietor could provide some answers to her questions or at least give her a bar. A bar of the hotel would give her a better understanding of what had happened here so long ago. It might even lead to some overlooked clues.</p> <p>What role will the hotel play in this story?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 As the backdrop for the mystery, it will be what Jan must navigate to find answers. 2 The hotel gives a feeling of peace and tranquility and will help put Jan at ease. 3 Because it is an old hotel, it will reinforce a theme about the passage of time. 	<p>"You remember that old shoebox Sammy we had when we were kids? The shoebox was full of letters and photos. I remember the day we found it. He even hid in the trunk and sent contracts with us one by one to the bank. It was the thought it was his job to herd us kids, and watch over us. They don't make them like that anymore."</p> <p>What theme is revealed through the character's speech?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 triumph over adversity 2 taking things in stride 3 fond memories of youth

Star Reading sample items

Domain	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
<p>Understanding Author's Craft</p> <p>Covers the understanding and analysis of an author's use of language and literary devices to create certain effects.</p>	<p>The storm raged outside our window as my sister and I huddled together talking secrets. My sister had reached the safest part of her story when the wind rumbled the windows. We both stopped and held our breath. The only light came from a streetlight shining through the window. We heard thunder rumbling in the distance.</p> <p>What gives the passage an eerie mood?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 the idea that the sister is telling a scary story 2 words such as huddled, only light, and rumbling 3 a streetlight shining through the window 	<p>As she warmed up, he observed the large crowd in the concert hall. She knew he was nervous because he had never performed in front of so many people. When she was warming up too, he thought the two of them were probably cute under the disco lights. She thought, nothing would stop her from doing all she could to win the music competition. He had no idea her attitude would be transformed completely before the day's end.</p> <p>The last sentence of the passage is an example of ____.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 repetition 2 flashback 3 foreshadowing 	<p>The traffic at the intersection of 7th and Grand Streets has increased dramatically over recent years. The two-way stop is no longer sufficient for the traffic, and impatient drivers take chances, making the intersection more and more dangerous. It is time for either a four-way stop sign or a traffic light to be installed. It seems me that the cost of implementing these changes would be put ahead of the safety of others.</p> <p>What phrase does the author use to impact the tone of the passage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The phrase "it seems me" reveals the author's anger about the intersection and undercuts the reasonable tone established at first. 2 The phrase "the safety of others" creates concerned tone that outweighs the author's annoyance about the impatience of drivers. 3 The phrase "take chances" demonstrates the author's eager tone and supports the desire to modify the condition of the intersection.
<p>Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text</p> <p>Covers the recognition, analysis, and evaluation of argument in persuasive, editorial, and academic writing.</p>	<p>Rachel and Saleena, the well-known cooking team, recommend Copper Made pots and pans. Rachel and Saleena say, "Copper Made pots and pans distribute heat evenly, making every meal a success." So take the seasoned advice of Rachel and Saleena: Try Copper Made.</p> <p>Which persuasive method is used in the passage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 urgency: making you feel you need to act quickly or you'll miss out 2 plain facts appeal: saying that people just like you use the product 3 testimonial: people who use the product tell why they like it 	<p>The school should start a publishing club. I personally already make great zines and comic books. Some people, however, need plenty of help. We have clubs for people who play sports, play chess, or paint. There is no club for people who want to learn how to publish their own work. Publishing could even become a career for students someday. Please add the publishing club soon.</p> <p>Which is the strongest reason for starting a publishing club?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Publishing could even become a career for students someday. 2 We have clubs for people who play sports, play chess, or paint. 3 I personally already make great zines and comic books. 	<p>Several states have laws requiring shoppers to pay a small deposit when buying beer cans. They have outlined their weaknesses. These don't most people don't recycle on their own. Making them return their beverage containers to the shops to get their deposit back is unnecessary. It would be easy just to put these containers in with the recycling.</p> <p>The writer assumes people no longer need container deposit laws to encourage them to recycle. What evidence would most help support this assumption?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 a comparison of recycling rates between states with and without these laws 2 an interview with a person who feels these laws are no longer necessary 3 a study showing how these laws helped reduce litter after they were passed









Star Reading sample items

Domain	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<p>Word Knowledge and Skills</p> <p>Covers knowledge and understanding of vocabulary as well as the ability to use the strategies.</p>	<p>In the aftermath of Friday's loss, the coach decided to hold extra practices. What is the connotation of <i>aftermath</i> rather than the denotation?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The team must face the consequences of being. The extra practices are a result of Friday's loss. Friday's loss was especially devastating. 	<p>She was tired of all the highlighting and color-coded notes. The word <i>periscope</i> comes from a Latin word meaning "test." What does <i>periscope</i> mean?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> aiming to raise one's social status by attending parties organizing individuals into parties that represent different views having fun or blind adherence to a party, cause, or faction 	<p>He responded to the question with the <i>jabber</i> of a puppy running to greet someone at the door. What is <i>jabber</i>?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> cheerful readiness utter indifference boundless patience
<p>Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning</p> <p>Covers strategies such as self-monitoring, making predictions, drawing conclusions, and using organizational structure of text to improve understanding.</p>	<p>Which of the following might make a newspaper article seem more important?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a beautiful font style a very large headline a caption with a picture 	<p>As more and more personal music devices, including phones, enter the market, students are in greater danger of hearing loss. These devices are believed to be more damaging to the ear than are traditional hearing aids. These devices are believed to be more damaging to the ear than are traditional hearing aids. These devices are believed to be more damaging to the ear than are traditional hearing aids. These devices are believed to be more damaging to the ear than are traditional hearing aids.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Loud noises damage tiny hair cells in the inner ear and loss of these cells leads to loss of hearing. As more and more personal music devices, including phones, enter the market, students are in greater danger of hearing loss. These devices are believed to be more damaging to the ear than are traditional hearing aids. 	<p>Well, I for one am thrilled with the idea of summer school. In fact, all students should be required to attend classes over the summer. What else would high school students be doing? Playing in the sun? We're not children! Why would we want to do anything but study during the last carefree days of youth? What conclusion can you draw about the author's true message?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The questions the author asks are all ironic. The author believes students should be having fun over the summer. The author firmly believes that summer school is a good choice and that all students should attend. The author thinks that students should strive for a careful balance between studying and having fun.
<p>Analyzing Literary Text</p> <p>Covers the exploration of plot, setting, character, theme, and point of view in literary text; as well as the characteristics of different genres.</p>	<p>Deak sat on the dusty ground where the labrets had left him. They had taken his boots, his hat, and his coat, and he was left with only his shirt and pants. He looked at his feet and poked up his crumpled hat. The first thing he did was find some shade. After the sun set, he'd head out in search of water. Deak has a mission, and despite the grueling challenge ahead, Deak had never felt more nearly alive.</p> <p>What archetype does the author draw on to develop Deak's character?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the rugged individualist the dispirited hero on a quest the trickster in disguise 	<p>There was the best of the grueling final exams, and Nora knew she had passed. She still hadn't decided what she would study yet. What is the author's purpose in including the information about Nora's college choice? What is the author's purpose in including the information about Nora's college choice? What is the author's purpose in including the information about Nora's college choice?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> coming of age generational conflict the hero's journey 	<p>I'm writing to apologize for all the havoc I reared in your den the other evening. I have enclosed a check to compensate you for all the trouble I caused. You'll find the amount I've included to repair Baby Bear's chair to be too much. The amount I've included for repairing your porridge and taking your bedding to the cleaner is just right. There's nothing quite so satisfying as eating up a happy resident, incidentally you agree?</p> <p>Sincerely, Goldilocks</p> <p>This passage is intended as _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> an allegorical story to teach a moral an example of literary nonfiction a parody of a traditional literary genre

Star Reading sample items




Domain	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<p>Understanding Author's Craft</p> <p>Covers the understanding and analysis of an author's use of language and literary devices to create certain effects.</p>	<p>Devorah thought the candidate's speech would never end. The audience would spend the rest of their lives in the auditorium. She was glad there was a snitch bar. The character uses sarcasm to express _____.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> her impotence over the length of the speech her dedication to the political ideas expressed in the speech her belief that the candidate has no chance to win 	<p>Though it was a peaceful day at sea, the waves still rose like mountains around Devon as their mountains could not be climbed, could not be farmed, and they sailed north on the sea. The sea was not a friend, but a foe. It had never in its depths, Shprecks, had treasures, had stores by obedient, abandoned for generations on its floor. Dominique and her team sought to reveal these secrets to the world through the lens of a camera.</p> <p>What does the imagery in the passage convey about the sea?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The sea is peaceful and calm. The sea is powerful and mysterious. The sea is learning new forms of life. 	<p>Synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part of something is used to mean the whole or, conversely, the whole for the part. One example would be if someone referred to her car as her wheels.</p> <p>Which is another example of synecdoche?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The captain called, "All hands on deck." The pen is mightier than the sword. The dawn reeled her rosy red fingers.
<p>Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text</p> <p>Covers the recognition, analysis, and evaluation of argument in persuasive, editorial, and academic writing.</p>	<p>I believe we must nurture our school like a garden, which needs sunlight, water, and nutrients. The sunlight is our school environment, and we must foster an environment conducive to learning. The water is our budget, what keeps programs flowing. And nutrients come from the curriculum so students can grow richer in knowledge every day.</p> <p>What method of argument is used in the passage?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> argument by analogy argument by authority argument by emotion 	<p>The "fear of power" has been a theme throughout American history. Checks and balances were written into the U.S. Constitution in order to guard against abuse of power. Madison and the other Federalists wrote about the danger of factions gaining disproportionate amounts of power in government. Yet, are we not possibly still the same? How does our "fear of power" translate in the context of our role in the world?</p> <p>In this first paragraph of an essay, what possible contradiction is the author introducing?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> that between being powerful abroad but weak at home that between knowing when to use power and when to wait that between the fear of power and the use of power 	<p>In conclusion, lowering the speed limit is the only viable solution to the dilemma of eye-increasing gasoline prices. The crisis is not that complicated – it is merely a matter of applying common sense and lower speed limits result in lower gas mileage. Lower gas mileage means lower gas costs and lower gas costs mean lower gas prices. With less demand, supply will increase and prices will drop. Other solutions, like public transportation and alternative fuel sources, have been tried and people just don't go for them. It's time to take the pedal off the metal and solve the problem of high gasoline prices once and for all.</p> <p>What aspect of this conclusion limits the overall success of the argument?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It overemphasizes the problem and exaggerates the solution. It offers a solution that wouldn't contribute to solving the problem. It addresses a problem that isn't of interest to most people.

Star Math sample items


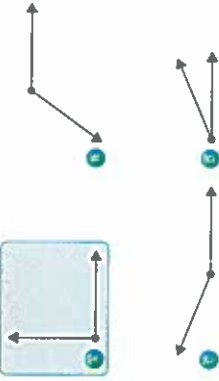

Domain	Kindergarten*	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Numbers and Operations	<p>There are 8 oranges. Some are in the basket.</p>  <p>How many oranges are in the basket?</p> <p>A 6 oranges B 5 oranges C 4 oranges D 3 oranges</p>	<p>Find the fourth house from the tree.</p> 	<p>Which log has an even number on it?</p> 	<p>What is the expanded form of 5,831?</p> <p>A $5,000 + 800 + 30 + 1$ B $5,000 + 600 + 10 + 3$ C $5,000 + 100 + 30 + 8$ D $5,000 + 300 + 80 + 1$</p>
Algebra	<p>What number goes in the box?</p>  <p>A 6 B 8 C 9 D 7</p>	<p>What number goes in the box?</p> <p>$\square + 8 = 15$</p> <p>A 7 B 23 C 8 D 24</p>	<p>A farmer has 41 ears of corn. She sells 38 of them. How many ears of corn does she have left? Which number sentence can be used to find the answer?</p> <p>A $41 + \square = 38$ the number of ears of corn left B $\square + 38 = 41$ the number of ears of corn left C $41 - 38 = \square$ the number of ears of corn left</p>	<p>What is the value of the missing number?</p> <p>$64 + \square = 83$</p> <p>A 148 B 147 C 19 D 18</p>
Geometry and Measurement	<p>How long is the toy car?</p>  <p>A 1 B 2 C 3 D 4</p>	<p>How many squares are there?</p>  <p>A 1 B 3 C 2</p>	<p>Count the money. How much is shown?</p>  <p>A 22¢ B 37¢ C 47¢ D 56¢</p>	<p>What temperature does the thermometer show?</p>  <p>A 60°F B 62°F C 65°F D 78°F</p>

*There are currently no sample items available for Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability domain, although this skill is tested at the kindergarten level.

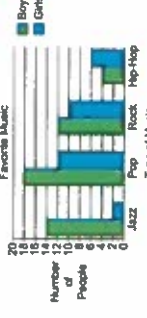
Star Math sample items

Domain	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3																															
Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability	<p>Mrs. Ito has these balls in her classroom.</p>  <p>Which tally chart shows this?</p> 	<p>Children at Robinson Elementary School picked their favorite subject.</p> <p>Favorite Subjects of Students at Robinson Elementary</p>  <p>Which subject did 57 children pick as their favorite?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> A social studies <input type="radio"/> B music <input type="radio"/> C science <input type="radio"/> D reading 	<p>What time does City Zoo close on Friday?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Day</th> <th>Open</th> <th>Close</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Montague Park</td> <td>Mon - Sun</td> <td>9:00 a.m.</td> <td>5:30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon - Fri</td> <td>9:30 a.m.</td> <td>5:15 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sat - Sun</td> <td>10:30 a.m.</td> <td>6:15 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">City Zoo</td> <td>Mon - Sat</td> <td>9:00 a.m.</td> <td>5:00 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon - Sat</td> <td>10:00 a.m.</td> <td>5:00 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sun</td> <td>10:00 a.m.</td> <td>5:00 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">English Center</td> <td>Mon - Sun</td> <td>9:30 a.m.</td> <td>5:30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon - Sun</td> <td>9:30 a.m.</td> <td>5:30 p.m.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> A 6:15 p.m. <input type="radio"/> B 5:15 p.m. <input type="radio"/> C 5:30 p.m. <input type="radio"/> D 5:00 p.m. 	Location	Day	Open	Close	Montague Park	Mon - Sun	9:00 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	Mon - Fri	9:30 a.m.	5:15 p.m.	Sat - Sun	10:30 a.m.	6:15 p.m.	City Zoo	Mon - Sat	9:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	Mon - Sat	10:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	Sun	10:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	English Center	Mon - Sun	9:30 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	Mon - Sun	9:30 a.m.	5:30 p.m.
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Star Math sample items

Domain	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6													
Numbers and Operations	<p>A car can travel 41 miles for each gallon of gas it uses. How many miles can the car travel using 45 gallons of gas?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> A 1,845 miles <input type="radio"/> B 1,800 miles <input type="radio"/> C 1,745 miles <input type="radio"/> D 1,888 miles</p>	<p>Round 753.478 to the nearest hundredth.</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> A 753.48 <input type="radio"/> B 753.47 <input type="radio"/> C 800 <input type="radio"/> D 753.50</p>	<p>What is the greatest common factor of 50 and 30?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A 25 <input type="radio"/> B 2 <input checked="" type="radio"/> C 10 <input type="radio"/> D 8</p>													
	<p>There are 12 marbles. Each bag holds the same number of marbles.</p>  <p>Which number sentence shows how to find the number of marbles in each bag?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> A $12 \div 4 = \square$ <input type="radio"/> B $12 \times 4 = \square$ <input type="radio"/> C $12 - 4 = \square$ <input checked="" type="radio"/> D $12 + 4 = \square$</p>	<p>A baseball team is using a pitching machine for batting practice. The table shows the number of balls the machine can pitch over time.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Number of Pitches, p</td> <td>24</td> <td>48</td> <td>72</td> <td>96</td> <td>120</td> <td>144</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of Minutes</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> <td>12</td> <td>15</td> <td>18</td> </tr> </table> <p>Which expression can be used to find the number of minutes it takes the machine to pitch p balls?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A $8p$ <input type="radio"/> B $8-p$ <input checked="" type="radio"/> C $p \div 8$ <input type="radio"/> D p</p>	Number of Pitches, p	24	48	72	96	120	144	Number of Minutes	3	6	9	12	15	18
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Geometry and Measurement	<p>Which of the angles appears to be a right angle?</p>  <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C</p>	<p>The radius of a circle is 9 inches. What is the diameter of the circle?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A 5 inches <input type="radio"/> B 36 inches <input checked="" type="radio"/> C 18 inches <input type="radio"/> D 15 inches</p>	<p>What is the volume of the rectangular prism? (Not drawn to scale)</p>  <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> A 3,960 cm^3 <input type="radio"/> B 3,096 cm^3 <input type="radio"/> C 306 cm^3 <input type="radio"/> D 196 cm^3</p>													


Star Math sample items

Domain	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6																															
<p>Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability</p>	<p>Fior asked her classmates to name their favorite types of music. Fior made the graph below to show the results.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Favorite Music</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Music</th> <th>Boys</th> <th>Girls</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jazz</td> <td>10</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pop</td> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rock</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hip-Hop</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>How many boys said pop was their favorite type of music?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> 12 boys <input type="radio"/> 4 boys <input checked="" type="radio"/> 18 boys <input type="radio"/> 14 boys </p>	Type of Music	Boys	Girls	Jazz	10	12	Pop	12	10	Rock	8	8	Hip-Hop	4	4	<p>The Friday attendance at a local theater is shown for the last 7 weeks. What is the median Friday attendance during this 7-week period?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Week</th> <th>Attendance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>175</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>153</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>103</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>127</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>147</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>132</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p> <input type="radio"/> 94 <input checked="" type="radio"/> 103 <input type="radio"/> 132 <input type="radio"/> 133 </p>	Week	Attendance	1	175	2	153	3	84	4	103	5	127	6	147	7	132	<p>The amount of vitamin C found in one cup of six different varieties of orange juice is shown below. What is the median amount of vitamin C in the different varieties?</p> <p>104 mg, 85 mg, 83 mg, 100 mg, 85 mg, 89 mg</p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> 91 mg <input type="radio"/> 85 mg <input type="radio"/> 92 mg <input checked="" type="radio"/> 87 mg </p>
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Star Math sample items

Domain		Grade 7	Grade 8	High School
Numbers and Operations	Evaluate: 6^4	<p><input type="radio"/> A 15,625</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 46,656</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 30</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> D 7,776</p>	<p>$\sqrt{78}$ is approximately equal to ____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A 20</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 7.8</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 40</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> D 9</p>	<p>Simplify: $\sqrt{24}$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A $3\sqrt{6}$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B $2\sqrt{12}$</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> C $2\sqrt{6}$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D $6\sqrt{2}$</p>
	A number multiplied by 5 is equal to 30. Which equation fits this statement?	<p><input type="radio"/> A $30x = 5$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B $5 = 30 - x$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C $\frac{x}{5} = 30$</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> D $5x = 30$</p>	<p>Solve: $12x < -36$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A $x > 3$</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> B $x < -3$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C $x > -24$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D $x < 24$</p>	<p>Which equation represents the line in the graph?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A $y = 4x + 2$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B $y = -2x - 4$</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> C $y = 2x - 4$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D $y = -4x + 2$</p>
Geometry and Measurement	What is the measure of angle J?	<p><input type="radio"/> A 130°</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 110°</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> C 80°</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D 70°</p>	<p>Abram is designing a tile pattern made up of squares and right triangles for a kitchen backsplash.</p> <p>What is x, the height of the row of tiles?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> A 6 in.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B 7 in.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C 8 in.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D 10 in.</p>	<p>Find the midpoint of the line segment between the points $(8.4, -4.6)$ and $(-5.8, -7.1)$.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A $(-2.8, -3.65)$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B $(6, -5.85)$</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> C $(0.4, -5.85)$</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D $(3.2, -2.3)$</p>

Star Math sample items

Domain	Grade 7	Grade 8	High School
<p>Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability</p>	<p>Mrs. Vogel is developing a vegetable soup recipe. The calorie counts for 1 cup of each of the 4 vegetables chosen are shown below. What is the mean number of calories for the vegetables?</p> <p>30 cal, 20 cal, 20 cal, 50 cal</p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> A 30 cal <input type="radio"/> B 25 cal <input type="radio"/> C 26 cal <input type="radio"/> D 20 cal </p>	<p>Chandra is typing an essay to enter in a writing competition. The scatter plot shows the number of words she has typed for the first 30 minutes.</p>  <p>Using this information, which time is the best prediction of the total time it will take Chandra to type the 1100-word essay?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> A 70 min <input type="radio"/> B 25 min <input type="radio"/> C 55 min <input checked="" type="radio"/> D 40 min </p>	<p>A cafe has a lunch menu with 4 sandwiches, 3 drinks, and 2 desserts. If you had to choose 1 sandwich, 1 drink, and 1 dessert, how many outcomes are possible?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> A 9 <input checked="" type="radio"/> B 24 <input type="radio"/> C 27 <input type="radio"/> D 33 </p>