



Wyoming Primary Schools

Elm • Hilltop • Vermont

October 4, 2024

Dear WPS Families,

In last week's WPS Newsletter, I provided some information about our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework that allows us to provide personalized support based on the unique needs of each student, whether they need extra help to master foundational skills or are ready for more challenging work. A key component of our MTSS is data collection which allows us to gain insight into each student's specific needs to align our instruction effectively. This week, I will provide a closer look at the two main benchmark assessments we have just completed here at WPS.

At Wyoming Primary Schools, we use benchmark assessments in reading and math to gain valuable insights into each child's academic progress and learning needs. These assessments help us monitor student growth, identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement, and guide our instruction to ensure that every student receives the appropriate level of support and challenge.

Two key tools we use for benchmark testing are **NWEA MAP** and **Acadience**.

1. NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress):

- Used for students in grades 1-4, MAP assessments provide detailed information about each student's current performance in both reading and math. MAP is a computer-based test that adapts to a student's individual learning level, meaning the difficulty of questions adjusts based on the student's responses. This provides a personalized measure of each child's progress.
- MAP results help teachers understand exactly where each student is on their learning path. This allows for targeted instruction that meets students at their individual levels and helps them grow in their skills and confidence.

2. Acadience:

- Acadience is used for students in kindergarten through grade 2 to assess foundational reading and math skills. It is also used as a diagnostic tool for reading and math in grades 3 and 4. This quick and efficient assessment measures reading skills such as letter naming, phonemic awareness, decoding, and reading fluency, as well as math skills such as number fluency, computation, and mathematical concepts and application. Having these math and reading measures gives teachers a snapshot of early math and literacy development.

- Acadience helps us identify students who may need additional support or enrichment in specific areas, allowing us to provide targeted interventions or acceleration as needed.

Rationale

We use benchmark assessments like NWEA MAP and Acadience for several important reasons:

1. **Monitor Growth Over Time** – These assessments are given multiple times a year, allowing us to track students' progress from one assessment period to the next. This helps us see how much each child is growing and whether they are on track to meet end-of-year expectations.
2. **Personalized Instruction** – The results from benchmark assessments give teachers detailed data on where each student is excelling and where they may need extra support. This information is used to tailor instruction, ensuring that every child receives the right level of challenge and assistance to succeed.
3. **Early Identification of Needs** – Benchmark assessments help us identify students who may need additional support, such as intervention in reading or math, as well as those who are ready for more advanced work. Early identification allows us to address needs before they become larger challenges, setting students up for success.
4. **Parent-Teacher Communication** – The data from these assessments provide a clear picture of your child's learning, which we will share with you during conferences and in report cards. This helps us work together as partners to support your child's learning journey.
5. **Informing Instructional Decisions** – Benchmark assessment data is one of the key tools we use to make informed decisions about curriculum and instruction. By understanding the needs of individual students and groups, we can adjust our teaching to better support student learning and achievement.

At Wyoming Primary Schools, benchmark assessments play a crucial role in helping us meet our goal of providing every student with the best possible education. The information gained from NWEA MAP and Acadience assessments allows us to create an individualized learning plan for each child, ensuring that they are appropriately challenged, supported, and set up for success in both reading and math. You will receive family reports for our fall benchmark assessments in your child's report card envelope on October 24th. Our team has been working hard to analyze the results of these assessments and to develop an instructional plan to ensure all students make progress and reach their full potential this year.

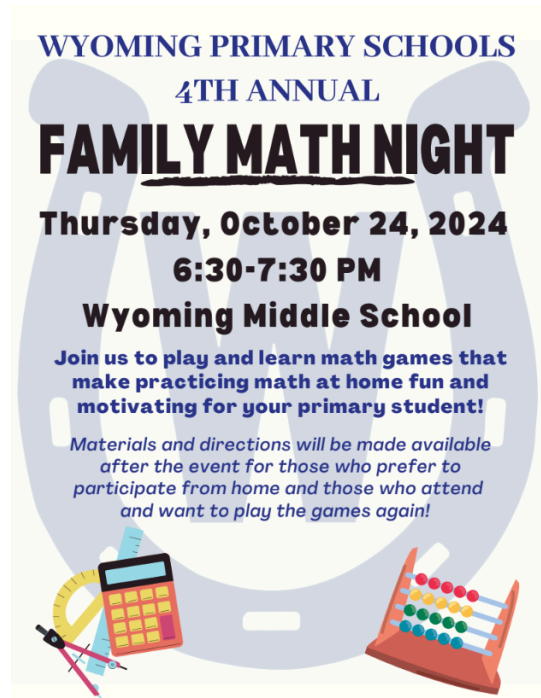
Sincerely,

Dr. Gina Kirchner

Principal, Wyoming Primary Schools

Counselor Corner

This week's Cowboy TV lessons focused on the topic of resilience, which is the ability to withstand or quickly recover from difficulties. When something happens that causes us to feel bad or disappointed, we can choose to continue to be upset or give up, or we can use a growth mindset and choose to move forward and try to make things better. To demonstrate resilience, it's important to have a positive outlook. We can foster resilience if we believe that things can get better even if they're difficult right now. Also, we can focus on getting better each day. There are many teachable moments when parents can help teach resilience outside of the school day. Parents can be explicit about how children can demonstrate resilience during difficult and disappointing situations and can model that for them as well.



Family Math Night

We are excited to invite Wyoming Primary School families and students to our fourth annual Family Math Night on Thursday, October 24th, at 6:30 PM at Wyoming Middle School! Parents are encouraged to attend with their child for a fun-filled hour of engaging math games designed specifically for each grade level. It's a great opportunity to support your child's learning while enjoying hands-on activities together. We look forward to seeing you there!



Halloween Costume Upcycle - Sponsored by Primary PAC

Bring your gently used and clean or new Halloween costumes of all sizes to any Wyoming Primary School 9/23 – 10/11. Collection bins will be inside the front entrances and costumes will be donated to the Findley Market Costume and Candy Drive.

Annually Findley Market has a costume and candy drive to help make the day special for kids in the community. Costumes are handed out on Sunday, October 27th and then everyone is invited back to the market for trick or treating on the 31st. By participating, you help conserve our environment while also assisting our local community to ensure every child has the chance to enjoy this Halloween!

For any questions, please email Kelly Carrier (kellyhill01@gmail.com). Further information about the Findley Market Costume and Candy Drive can be found at <https://www.findlaymarket.org/marketevents/costumecandydrive24>.

Upcoming Dates

- **Third Grade Ohio State Test in Reading** - Tuesday, October 22nd, and Wednesday, October 23rd
- **Family Math Night** - Thursday, October 24th - 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Wyoming Middle School
- **Halloween Parades & Parties** - Thursday, October 31st - (view and print [letter and permission slip](#))

- **Conference Day** - Friday, November 1 - No School for Students - (details were in yesterday's Thursday Folder)

News from Around Wyoming

[Click here for more Events and Information from around WCS & the community](#), including:

- Upcoming Events
- Join PSA Today!
- JWC Light Up kits discounted until Oct. 20

Photos from the Week

Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the week at WPS!