

What Is NWEA?

NWEA is a set of tests called the Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP) that students in grades K-8 take each fall and spring. Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade take MAP for primary grades tests in Reading and Math, while students in grades 2-8 take MAP tests in Reading, Language, and Math. These tests determine your child's instructional level and measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the listed subject areas.

MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests your child took on a computer. That means that the test became more difficult the more questions your child answered correctly. When your child incorrectly answered a question, the test became easier. Therefore, your child took a test specifically created for his or her learning level. In addition, your child should have had the opportunity to learn the information presented on the test because the tests are aligned with the common core standards.

Your child's MAP results are reported in **RIT scores**. This is a different type of score than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. It is also different from many tests that provide results based on your child's score compared to others in his or her grade. Instead, the RIT score is an equal-interval scale, like feet and inches, that is independent of grade level. As a result, we can easily measure growth in learning. This type of score increases the value of the tests as a tool to improve student learning because it enables teachers to recognize where to focus attention for your child's learning.

MAP testing is a powerful tool for monitoring student growth over time. A document called *Normative Data* can be found on the school website as well. The charts in this document show the average (mean) and middle (median) RIT scores for different grades for a typical school district. In addition RIT reference charts for each of the MAP tests can be found on the school website as well.

I hope you find the enclosed reports informative. If you have questions, please contact the school office at 358-2512.

Thank you for taking an active interest in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Sprengel
Principal