

The NWEA Measures of Academic Progress: A Workshop for Parents

Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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What is the NWEA?

- * Northwest Educational Evaluation Association
- * Thirty years of expertise in assessment
- * Not-for-profit research organization
- * www.nwea.org

What are the Measures of Academic Progress?

- * Adaptive Assessment
- * Computerized
- * Available in most subjects
- * We are piloting the Mathematics Assessment in grades four, five and six.

What is an adaptive assessment?

- * Students take the assessment on the computer in the computer lab.
- * The student's response to each item generates the level of the next question. If the item is correct, the next item will be more difficult. If it is answered incorrectly, the next item will be easier.
- * The computer is able to adjust and determine the child's level.
- * Each student answers different questions.

Do all students take the same test?

- * Students take this test at the same time, but each assessment is different.
- * The assessments are designed to target a student's academic performance.
- * These tests are tailored to an individual student's current achievement level.

How long will the test take?

- * The Measures of Academic Progress are not timed.
- * Most students will complete the first assessment in about an hour.
- * Students who need testing accommodations will have the appropriate accommodation.

How are the NWEA MAP assessments used?

- * The assessment measures student growth over time.
- * The assessment will provide a level and a plan for what your child needs to learn.
- * The assessment will be administered again in June 2012.

IS THERE A SCORE?

- * The assessment will provide a score called a RIT.
- * RIT stands for Rasch UnIT which is a measurement scale used by NWEA to simplify the interpretation of the score.
- * We like to think of RIT as **R**eady for **I**nstruction **T**oday.

How do the teachers use the scores?

- * The data is used to plan instruction for each child.
- * The teachers also use daily performance, weekly performance and other assessments to determine what each child needs to learn.

Will parents receive the results?

- * We will be able to share the results with you once we have completed and reviewed them. We anticipate that this will be towards the end of January.

Can I prepare my child for this assessment?

- * Children should always come to school ready to learn.
- * The day of the assessment is a regular day of school.
- * Be sure your child eats a healthy breakfast every day!

How can I help my child in mathematics?

- * Board games, puzzles, card games help build math skills.
- * Building and creating helps children visualize, learn measurement and apply mathematics.
- * Practice math facts!
- * Be sure your children see you using math – in the kitchen, while shopping, making change, and deciding on a tip. Engage your older children in some of the math you are using.
- * Newspapers and magazines have charts and graphs. Read and interpret these with your child.

Are there websites that can help my child with mathematics?

- * Think Central is the website that is aligned with our mathematics program. Your child has a user name and password. There are many activities on the site for families.
- * Our Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen website has many sites for you to use.
 - * <http://www.valleystream13.com/links/index.asp>

Questions about Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen and the
NWEA?

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