

September 12, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In effort to improve teaching and learning, the Orangeville CUSD #203 will continue to provide our teachers and students with a tool to assist in identifying areas of growth based upon your student's individual needs. **NWEA's MAP** assessment allows teachers and students the opportunity to set goals and track individual student growth throughout the school year in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. Starting the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>, students in K-11 will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). As an overview for you, we have provided several frequently asked questions and their responses. You may also find helpful information on the NWEA site at [nwea.org](http://nwea.org). Click the "**Assessments**" tab, then scroll down and click, "**Resources for Parents.**"

➤ **What is MAP?**

- MAP is a computer adaptive test for Reading, Language Use, and Mathematics, which means every student gets a unique set of test questions based on responses to previous questions. If the student answers correctly, the questions become more difficult. If a student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. By the end of the test, most students will answer about half of the questions correctly. **This test is not timed**, and students are allowed have their tests paused and finish it at another time.

➤ **What is MAP for Primary Grades?**

- MAP for Primary Grades is a set of computerized tests which include Screening (diagnostic) tests, Skills Checklist (diagnostic) tests, and Survey With Goals (adaptive) tests in Reading and Mathematics. These assessments provide information to guide instruction during the early stages of student's academic career. Early identification of achievement levels is foundational for teachers establishing an environment for early academic success.

➤ **What is MAP for upper grades?**

- MAP test for the upper grades is a set of computerized tests that measure Reading, Language Use, and Mathematics skills. They create a personalized experience by adapting student's learning level---precisely measuring student progress and growth for each individual.

➤ **What does MAP measure?**

- MAP results are provided as a numerical RIT score. This score is used to measure a student's achievement level at different times throughout the school year and determine growth. Think of it like marking your child's height on a growth chart. You can tell how tall your child is at various points in time and how much they have grown between one time and another.

- **What is a RIT score?**
  - The RIT (Rasch Unit) Scale is a stable, equal-interval scale, like feet and inches. A RIT score has the same meaning regardless of grade level or age of student. Scores over time can be compared to tell how much academic growth a student has made, similar to measuring height with a ruler.
- **How do teachers use MAP scores?**
  - MAP test scores are accessible to teachers within 24 hours of completing the assessments. They are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth of basic skills. They let teachers know where specific areas of strength and weakness are for each individual student. They are provided a learning continuum with information on how to guide their instruction in their classroom. Teachers will have a plan for how they use time for either intervening with students that need it, or providing enrichment to challenge those higher-level students.
- **How long is a MAP test and how often will my child take the tests?**
  - Although the tests are **NOT** timed, it usually takes students about an hour to complete each MAP test. Younger students tend to take 30-45 minutes. These assessments are given three times throughout the school year (Fall, Winter, Spring).
- **What information will I receive from my child's school?**
  - You will be provided with your child's Student Progress Report during Parent/Teacher conferences. This report contains information and scores from your child's most recent and past MAP tests.
- **How can I help my child prepare for MAP tests?**
  - Your child's teacher will help with any pre-test instructions and warm-up testing to explain the test to students. Just like any school day, make sure your child is well-rested and fed with a well-rounded diet. Encourage them to do their best. This is not a high stakes test, but a tool used to measure what a student knows and still needs to learn.

By partnering to help all kids learn, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children. We appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Douglas DeSchepper, Superintendent/Elementary Principal  
Mr. Andrew Janecke, Jr./Sr. High Principal