



Dear Parents:

As mentioned at the informational meetings in August, our school will be using the MAP Testing program for the 2017-2018 school year. The Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS), our synod's office created to assist WELS schools, is no longer offering the Terra Nova Testing option for our school. One of the new testing options that many WELS schools have chosen is the MAP Testing. To help familiarize you with MAP, we've included the following questions/answers that parents often ask regarding the MAP Testing program.

What is MAP and what does it measure?

You may be familiar with paper and pencil tests where all students are asked the same questions and spend a fixed amount of time taking the test. MAP is different. MAP is a computer adaptive test, which means every student gets a unique set of test questions based on responses to previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions get harder. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions get easier. By the end of the test, most students will answer about half the questions correctly. MAP can follow students wherever they are starting from, regardless of the grade they are in. For instance, if a third grader is actually reading like a fifth grader, MAP will be able to identify that. Or, if a fifth grader is doing math like a third grader, MAP will identify that. Both things are incredibly important for a teacher to know, so that they can plan instruction efficiently. MAP covers reading, language usage, and math. Some schools also use the MAP Science test to measure student achievement and growth in science. At St. Paul's we will only be using the Reading and Math for the 2017-2018 school year.

What is a RIT score?

When students finish, they receive a score – a number – called a RIT score. This score represents a student's achievement level at a given moment in the school year, when the test is given. Taken over time, the scores can compute a student's academic growth. Think of this like marking 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. The RIT (Rasch Unit) scale is a stable, equal-interval scale, like feet and inches. Equal-interval means that a change of 10 RIT points indicates the same thing regardless of whether a student is at the top, bottom, or middle of the scale, and a RIT score has the same meaning regardless of grade level or age of the student. Scores over time can be compared to tell how much growth a student has made, similar to measuring height with a ruler.

How often will my child take the MAP test?

Most schools give MAP tests to students at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. Some schools may include a summer testing session as well. *At St. Paul's we will test in September, January, and April. Our first testing window falls between September 18-September 29.*

How long is the MAP test?

Most students take less than an hour to complete a MAP test. However, MAP is not timed, and students may take as much time as they need to complete them. Students at St. Paul's will take two tests during each testing period.

Is MAP a standardized test and how is it different from 'high-stakes' or state tests?

When we talk about high-stakes tests, usually we're talking about a state test. These are designed to measure what students already know, based on what is expected at their grade level, as a way to measure grade-level proficiency. MAP is designed to measure student achievement in the moment, and growth over time, regardless of grade level, so it is quite different. Another difference is the timeliness of the results. While state test usually return information in the fall after the test is taken, MAP gives quick feedback to teachers, administrators, students and parents. Teachers receive immediate results with MAP that show what students know and what they are ready to learn. The results can be used to help personalize lessons at the appropriate level for the students. One similarity is that MAP aligns to the same standards in a given state as the state tests, so both measure similar content.

What information will I receive from my child's school?

We will provide you with a child's Student Progress Report. This report contains information and scores from a student's most recent and past MAP tests. Parents will be able to discuss results with teachers for a full understanding of how the information can be used. We will also share how you can use your child's reading and math scores to identify resources that can support home learning. *Students will be given a reading score based on how they did on the test called a Lexile Score. The Lexile Score will help parents and teachers to work together to find books and materials that are at the student's specific reading level. More information on that will come at a later date.*

I hope this letter has helped to give you a better understanding of the MAP testing program. We believe that over time it will help our school to better meet the needs of our students. On Monday, October 9, our teachers will be attending a one day workshop that will help us to learn how to use the information from the student tests to improve learning for all.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the MAP Testing program.

Blessings!

Donald Kolander
414-744-9771
dkolander@stpaulscudahy.com

What is a Lexile Score?

A Lexile Score measures a student's ability to read specific books. It is a measure of reading comprehension. The Lexile range represents a level of reading difficulty that leaves readers neither frustrated nor bored. This level should stimulate a student to new learning while rewarding their current reading abilities. 10L is at the low end of the scale and 1700L is at the high end. Books for beginning readers are listed as BR on the scale. The 150 point Lexile range is included on NWEA's Individual Student Progress Reports. It allows educators and parents to find books, periodicals, and other reading material that is appropriately challenging for each student. You can access the Lexile web site at www.lexile.com. You can search titles at the web site free of charge. The regular search feature allows you to search by title, author, ISBN, subject, or Lexile range. It is very important for parents to keep in mind that Lexile does not evaluate genre, theme, content, or interest. Even though a student might be able to read books at a certain Lexile, the content or theme of the text may not be appropriate for that particular student because of his or her Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Frequently Asked Questions age or developmental level. Also, a student may be able to read more difficult content if it is an area of interest for that child since he or she may already be familiar with some of the vocabulary necessary to comprehend the text. Some Examples of Books and Their Lexile Score:

Green Eggs and Ham 30L

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets 940L

Amelia Bedelia 140L

Hatchet 1020L

Clifford, the Big Red Dog 220L

Pride and Prejudice 1100L

Bony-Legs 370L

The Adventures of Robin Hood 1270L

Curious George 400L

Little Women 1300L

Sarah, Plain and Tall 560L

Profiles in Courage 1410L

Charlotte's Web 680L

The Good Earth 1530L

Jurassic Park 710L T

The Principles of Scientific Management 1670L

The Fellowship of the Ring 860L

Discourse on the Method and Meditations on First Philosophy 1720L