

From: Minnetonka School District [mailto:Communications@minnetonka.k12.mn.us]

Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 3:30 PM

Subject: NWEA Results

A message from MINNETONKA SCHOOL DISTRICT 276

Dear Parent/Guardian of Minnetonka Students in Grades K-8,

Your child's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test results developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) are now available in Skyward. Click the link below to view the NWEA National Norms Chart and Skyward Family Access visual.

<http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/administration/communicate/ConnectEd/District/Norms%20Chart%20and%20Screenshots.pdf>

To view any test scores in Skyward Family Access, these are the steps:

1. Go to www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us and login to "MyMinnetonka".
2. Click on "For Parents".
3. Click on "Skyward Family Access".
4. Select the name of the child you wish to view scores for at the top of the screen.
5. Click on "Test scores" on the left-hand side of the screen.
6. You can then select "show scores" for the assessment you wish to view.

These tests determine your child's instructional level and measure academic growth from year to year in the areas of mathematics and reading. MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests your child took on a computer. In essence, each test is customized to the student to pinpoint each student's appropriate instructional level.

Your child's MAP results are reported in (Rasch Unit) RIT scores. This is a different type of score than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. It is also different than 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 unrelated to age or grade level of the student. 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 tests are aligned to Minnesota Standards and are often used as an indicator of preparedness for state assessments. Most districts administer the MAP two times each year to allow educators to monitor the progress of students. A few students are tested in the middle of the year if a teacher determines it is appropriate. Student test results are maintained from one testing window to the next, so teachers and parents can monitor the growth of individual students year after year.

The tables in this document show the mean RIT score for different grades based on national norms. For example, nationally students who are performing at the 4th grade level in reading typically have a mean reading score of 199.8 at the beginning of school and 206.7 at the end of school. Students who are

performing nationally at the 4th grade level in math typically have a mean math score of 203.8 at the beginning of school and a 212.5 at the end of school.

NWEA is a snapshot in time. When many snapshots are taken they can be reviewed from year to year. We will have many data points for your student, so there may be a dip in scores. This is normal as students may have "off" days. A few students may dip in the spring and recover in the fall and this pattern becomes evident after a few years of testing that student. If your child's score has not increased, but the child is performing well in class, waiting until the next test session will help determine if the child had an "off" day during testing. Since the NWEA presents more challenging questions as a child answers correctly, it is difficult to achieve a "false high". This means if a child scores a 200 on the fall test and a 195 on the spring test, the first test is likely the best measure.

Finally, this year, students in grades 2-8 took NWEA's new version of the Reading assessment, which is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. School staff will use what they have learned from the new assessment for future planning. Both the NWEA and MCA reading tests are now aligned to the Common Core.

We hope you find the reports informative. We are truly excited to offer an assessment that focuses on every child's individual growth and achievement.

This e-mail has been sent to you by MINNETONKA SCHOOL DISTRICT 276. To maximize their communication with you, you may be receiving this e-mail in addition to a phone call with the same message. If you wish to discontinue this service, please inform MINNETONKA SCHOOL DISTRICT 276 either IN PERSON, by US MAIL, or by TELEPHONE at [952-401-5000](tel:952-401-5000).