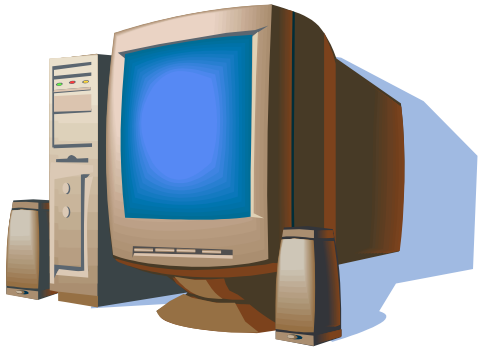


What is the MAP Test?

The purpose of the test is to assess student performance in the subjects tested. It is given twice a year in the fall and spring. The MAP test is a computer adaptive test. Questions are generated based on the previous question's response for each student. As a result, the test is truly individualized. The MAP test is aligned to Minnesota's Academic Standards.

Measures of Academic Progress

Students at St. Michael Catholic School take the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) reading, math and language test in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) publishes the MAP test.



Student Scores

Student scores are reported in RIT scores (short for Rausch Unit). The RIT score 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 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 student's learning. The scores make it possible to follow a student's educational growth from year to year.

On your individual student progress report, you will not only see your child's RIT score, but you will also see the district average RIT as well as the RIT average for students across the nation (Norm Group Average).

Understanding the RIT Score

It is important to understand the MAP test is one test at one point in time. It does not measure intelligence or a student's capacity for learning. When making important decisions about students, school staff will consider the MAP test results along with other data, such as classroom performance, other test scores, and input from parents and teachers. The score is independent of the age or grade of the student, but reflects the instructional level at which your student is currently performing.

How is the RIT score used?

The RIT score is an estimation of a student's instructional level. The instructional level helps teachers know what students have learned and what students are ready to learn. The first year of testing is what is called a "baseline" year, meaning a starting point. Growth will be measured in future test cycles. Each year a report will be generated for your student that will show his or her individual growth from fall to spring and eventually from year to year. Parents receive the growth report at the end of the year with their report card in June.



Growth Over Time

We expect RIT scores to increase over time. Typically, younger students show more growth in one year than older students. Students who test above grade level often show less growth. Sometimes RIT scores may decline from one test to the next. One low test score is not a cause for immediate concern. Like adults, students have good and bad days and their test results do not always indicate what they know. Students' attitudes toward the test can also affect their score. Instead, we will look for growth over time.

Understanding Student Growth

Parents and guardians are urged to understand that individuals will grow at different rates. Anticipated growth rates for each student are based on national norms and should be viewed as “typical” growth, not “expected” growth. Our goal is for teachers to use data to differentiate and adjust instruction so that all students grow at levels appropriate for each individual.

NWEA tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. They let teachers know where a student’s strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. MAP assessments provide teachers with the instructional level of the student which determines a “road map” for determining where each student is performing. Teachers use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom.

Lexile Numbers

A Lexile is a unit for measuring text difficulty that is linked to the Reading RIT score. The Lexile range is included on your child’s progress report. It allows educators and parents to find book, periodicals, and other reading material that is appropriately challenging for each student. 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.

The Lexile database currently includes tens of thousands of titles. The **Find a Book** feature allows you to search by title, author, keyword and ISBN. By entering a Lexile measure, range, or grade level, you can search by interest and then further refine your results. **Lexile at Home** section contains topics that detail ways you can use a child’s Lexile measure to foster literacy and learning at home. Check it out!

You can access the Lexile web site at www.lexile.com



The MAP Test Measure of Academic Progress