

## **MAP Testing Results**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

We have compiled the following frequently asked questions to help you to better understand the MAP results for your child in reading, language arts and math.

#### **What is a MAP assessment?**

MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) is a computerized adaptive assessment that measures your child's knowledge of reading, language arts and math. It is administered three times a year (fall, winter and spring) to students in grades 2-8 across all schools in the Archdiocese. All students are asked the same number of questions, but the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the students answer incorrectly, the questions become easier and then become progressively more challenging. This allows the assessment to precisely identify the full spectrum of a student's strengths and weaknesses.

#### **How are the assessment results shared?**

MAP assessments are used to measure student progress and growth in reading, language arts and math. These assessments will help teachers understand your child's areas of strengths and weaknesses and provide appropriate instruction.

#### **What is a RIT score?**

RIT stands for Rasch unit, which is used to measure a student's academic growth over the course of the student's academic career in our schools. The score is unrelated to the age or grade of the student, but reflects the level at which the student is currently performing. A RIT score represents a point on a continuous scale of learning. It is similar to measuring a student's height with a yardstick each time they visit the pediatrician for a well-visit. It is not evaluative, but tells us where a child is at a specific given point on time.

#### **How does your child's teacher use the MAP results?**

MAP is only one indication of how well your child is doing in school. You should also consider how well your child is doing on classwork, projects, critical thinking, problem solving and other assessments. At St. Ursula, we are using the results to provide individualized instruction with standards that are based on strengths and areas for growth in reading, language arts and math. The scores also guide small group instruction in reading and math.

#### **What kind of growth should I expect?**

We expect RIT scores to increase over time. Students at lower grade levels tend to show a greater increase in RIT scores during a school year than students in higher grade levels. At higher levels, questions get much harder and the overall growth is a smaller proportion of all that one knows. Anticipated growth rates for each student are based on national norms and should be viewed as “typical”, not expected.

### **What should I look for on the enclosed Family Report?**

You will see two national percentile ranks for each test. For each content area, students receive a national percentile rank on the left hand side of the page that represents their performance along with a national percentile rank for student growth on the right hand side, which is a measure of the change in performance since a previous administration. For example, this family report measures a change in performance between the fall and winter administrations. Now that you know there are two national percentile ranks for each test, there are some things for you to keep in mind. Do not be distracted by a high performing score accompanied by low growth scores. On the other hand, do not be distracted by a low performing score accompanied by high growth. Both performance and growth scores should be used in conjunction to better understand a student’s level of achievement. Not all students will have high levels of performance and growth, and high performing students often have low growth scores.

### **Where can I find more information or resources about MAP?**

NWEA provides lots of resources to help families further understand MAP growth and the meaning of their scores. Families should refer to the “Family Toolkit” that can be found at <http://www.nwea.org/family-toolkit/>. Your child’s academic teachers can provide an overall view of your child and their academic progress so far this school year.