

Morris Area School District Parents (Grades 1-8):

During the next few weeks of school, we will be implementing a new student assessment program in first through eighth grades. The program is called Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress, or NWEA's MAP.

MAP tests are unique and different from the state tests that students take. MAP tests adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. This means the difficulty level of questions changes after each question, depending on if a student answers the previous question correctly or not. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. In addition, MAP tests can be administered more quickly and use less class time while we still receive detailed, accurate information about students' performance and growth.

We give students MAP tests to determine each child's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of reading, language usage, and mathematics. Your child will take the tests on a computer. The program can help us determine students' instructional levels and measure academic areas in detail. We wanted to let you know your child would be taking online assessments in reading, math, and/or language arts (each online test should take approximately 45 minutes) sometime during a testing window starting October 24. When testing, your child will spend a total of about 2 hours completing these tests. Following the testing period, a report showing your child's results will be distributed at Parent-Teacher Conferences.

We are excited to utilize the results of this new assessment program as we enter an era of focusing on every child's individual growth and achievement. Partnering to help all kids learn, parents and schools can have a profound positive effect on the lives of children.

Additional information regarding NWEA's MAP tests can be found on the school district web site. If you have questions or want more information about NWEA's MAP, please contact one of the principals (Brad Korn or Mike Coquyt) or me. Thank you for your time.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott J. Monson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

Scott Monson, Superintendent