

St. Thomas & St. Timothy School
Archdiocese of Hartford 2023-2024
NWEA Guide for Parents and Families

Who is NWEA?

NWEA™ (*Northwest Evaluation Association*) is a global not-for-profit educational services organization located in Portland, Oregon. NWEA partners with over 3,500 educational organizations worldwide to provide research--based adaptive assessments and professional development. NWEA's mission is partnering to help all kids learn. As a result of NWEA assessments, educators can make informed decisions to promote your child's academic growth.



What are the adaptive MAP assessments?

NWEA's assessments are called *Measures of Academic Progress* (MAP). The MAP assessments are tailored to each student's current academic levels in **Reading, Math, and Language Usage**. It provides each student with a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. When taking these adaptive assessments, 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 challenging. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become a bit easier. It is optimal for each student's answers to be approximately half correct and half incorrect. The score of each assessment is an estimate of the student's achievement level. As a result, each student's experience is unique and tailored to meet his or her needs.

What subjects does MAP assess?

In the Archdiocese of Hartford, students in grades 3 through 8 are assessed in reading, language usage (better known as grammar) and mathematics.

When will my child be assessed and how often?

In the Archdiocese of Hartford, elementary schools are expected to administer the MAP Assessment in September, again in January, and then again in April/May.

How long does it take to complete each part?

Although the assessments are not timed, it usually takes students about 25-35 minutes to complete each of the three MAP assessments.

Do all students in the same grade take the exact same assessment?

No. MAP assessments are designed to target a student's academic performance in mathematics, reading, and language usage. The MAP assessments are tailored to each student's current achievement level. It provides each student with a fair opportunity to show what she or he knows and can do. The computer will adapt the assessment based on each child's individual responses to the questions.



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What are MAP assessments used for?

MAP assessments are used to measure your student's progress and growth in each subject area. You may have a chart in your home on which you mark your child's height at certain times, such as on her or his birthday. This is a growth chart. It shows how much she or he has grown from one year to the next. MAP assessments do the same sort of thing, except they measure your child's growth in mathematics, reading, and language usage skills. The scale used to measure your child's progress is called the RIT scale. The RIT scale is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart your child's academic growth from year to year.

What is the average score?

RIT scores range from about 100 to 300. Students typically start at the 140 to 190 level in the third grade and progress to the 240 to 300 level by high school. RIT scores make it possible to follow a student's educational growth from year to year.

How do teachers use the scores?

MAP assessments are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. They let teachers know where each student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. Teachers will use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom. A single assessment score does not define student success or effective instruction. However, assessment data can be incredibly useful to educators, parents, and students alike by helping them improve their teaching, mentoring, goal-setting and learning.

Can I help my child prepare for a MAP Assessment?

No. As each one is unique and tailored to your child's instructional level, study guides are not available or recommended. Below is a link to a family toolkit that provides additional information and resources for families:

<https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/>

As always, please reach out if you have questions.

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