



Arlington Heights School District 25

1200 S. Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60005 • (847) 758-4890 • Fax (847) 758-4909 • jadams@sd25.org

Fall, 2016

Dear Parent(s):

Each year, the district administers several state and local assessments to our students. The information obtained from these assessments aids our teachers' understanding of your child's strengths and needs in order to design instruction accordingly. If possible, please avoid scheduling outside appointments during testing time. With the exception of the PARCC test, each classroom may participate in these assessments at different times throughout the testing window, so you may have to refer to each teacher's particular testing schedule. We will utilize the following assessment tools during the 2016 - 2017 school year.

The **Achievement Improvement Monitoring System (AIMSweb)** assessments are administered to our kindergarten through eighth grade students in language arts and math throughout the year. Kindergarteners are asked to identify letter names and sounds, and upon becoming readers, are asked to read grade-level passages throughout their elementary years. The math assessments focus on various early numeracy skills, computation, and/or application of strategies. These assessments typically take three to eight minutes and are administered to each student individually.

AIMSweb Administration Dates:

September 6 - September 30

January 10 - January 31

May 1 - May 17

The **NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)** will be administered to all new students or those in need of progress monitoring in the fall, winter, and spring. In the winter, students in grade 3 will take the math assessment and students in grade 5 will take the reading assessment. Students in other grade levels may take the MAP test for placement into advanced classes. In the spring, all students grades 2 - 8 will take both the reading and math assessments. The computerized format of MAP, aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards, assesses students in both reading and mathematics and is an adaptive test. The total time for testing in both areas is about two hours. You may find additional information about MAP testing at the Northwest Evaluation Association's website - <http://www.nwea.org/>.

MAP Administration Dates:

September 12 - September 30

January 3 - January 20

April 17 - May 5

The **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)** is administered to all fifth grade students in the winter. The CogAT measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. Reasoning abilities are good predictors of success in school and are important outcomes of good schooling.

CogAT Administration Dates:

February 6 - February 17

The **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)** is given to all students third through eighth grade. PARCC is a computer-based assessment built to evaluate students on the Illinois Learning Standards and measures whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers. All students in these grade levels are tested in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

PARCC Administration Dates:

March 6 - March 22

The **Illinois Science Assessment** is administered to all fifth and eighth grade students through a computer-based platform. The assessment is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards, and will take into consideration the current transitional status of most Illinois classrooms.

Illinois Science Assessment Dates:

April 3 - April 13

The **Advanced Placement** testing for **English Language Arts** is given to students who meet testing criteria based on performance on the winter MAP test and the CogAT. Students who qualify, complete the district placement test in the spring in accordance to the grade levels below:

- All fifth grade students who qualify
- All sixth and seventh grade students in core Language Arts who qualify and request to test

The **Advanced Placement** testing for **Math** is given to students who meet testing criteria based on performance on the winter MAP test. Students who qualify, complete the district placement test in the spring in accordance to the grade levels below:

- All third grade students who qualify
- All fourth through seventh grade students in core Math who qualify and request to test

Advanced Placement Testing Dates:

April 10 - April 13

The **Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System** is administered to all first through fifth grade students in the fall, kindergarten students in the winter, and all kindergarten through third grade students in the spring. Information obtained from this assessment is used to provide classroom teachers with key information about individual students' strengths and areas for growth to drive their small group reading instruction. It also provides another data point to determine if students are progressing in their ability to read more complex text throughout the course of the school year.

Fountas & Pinnell Administration Dates:

September 6 - September 30

December 1 - January 20

April 17 - May 17

All of these assessments provide our staff with critical information that helps us plan your child's educational experience. If you have any questions regarding any of these assessments, please contact your child's teacher or the principal of your child's school.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Adams
Assessment Coordinator
Department of Student Learning