



Embracing Today – Inspiring Tomorrow

PATTON | OLIVE | IVY HILL | GREENBRIER | THOMAS
WINDSOR | WESTGATE | DRYDEN | SOUTH

August 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians(s):

Each year, District 25 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 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (previously the PARCC assessment), 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 2018 - 2019 school year.

The **Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS)** is an observational tool designed to help teachers and administrators better understand the developmental readiness of children entering kindergarten. KIDS is core to the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) goal that every child in Illinois deserves to attend a school wherein all kindergarteners are assessed for readiness. KIDS focuses on the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that most impact long-term student success. This assessment takes place within the first forty days of the Kindergarten school year.

KIDS Administration Dates:

August 21 - October 22

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, students are asked to read grade-level passages throughout their elementary & middle school years. The math assessments focus on various early numeracy skills for K/1, and computation and/or application of strategies for students second through eighth grade. These assessments typically take three to eight minutes and are administered to each student individually.

AIMSweb Administration Dates:

August 27 – September 21

December 3 - December 21

April 29 - May 15

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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, all students in grades 3 - 7 will take the reading assessment and math assessment. 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 4 - September 28

December 3 - December 21

April 8 - April 24

The **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)** is administered to all third & fifth grade students in the fall. The CogAT measures learned 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:

October 9 - October 26

The **ACCESS for ELLs** is administered to all English Language Learner students. ACCESS for ELLs is a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English language learners' social and academic proficiency in English. It assesses social and instructional English used within the school context as well as the language associated with language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies across the four language domains (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing).

ACCESS Administration Dates:

January 16 - February 19

The **Illinois Assessment of Readiness (replaces the PARCC assessment)** is given to all students third through eighth grade. This assessment is built to evaluate students on the Illinois Learning Standards. All students in these grade levels are tested in English Language Arts and Mathematics. We will communicate information as it becomes available during the school year.

IAR Administration Dates:

March 5 - March 19

The **Illinois Science Assessment (ISA)** is administered to all fifth and eighth grade students through a computer-based platform, and is aligned to our Illinois Learning Standards for science. The ISA represents Illinois' commitment to preparing all students for college and careers, including in the high-demand science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Illinois Science Assessment Administration Dates:

March 8 - March 15 (eighth grade)

April 2 - April 10 (fifth grade)

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

The **Advanced Placement** testing for **Math** is given to students who meet testing criteria based on performance on the MAP test and/or the CogAT. Students who qualify, complete the district placement test in the spring.

Advanced Placement Test Administration Dates:

May 13 - May 21

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 4 - September 28

November 26 - December 21

April 8 - May 10

The **FitnessGram** assessment is administered to all students in grades 3 - 8 in the fall and spring as part of the physical education program. This assessment measures health-related fitness for youth through multiple tests measuring aerobic capacity, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility.

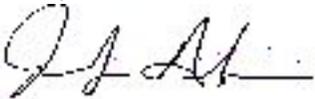
FitnessGram Administration Dates:

August 27 - September 14

April 1 - May 10

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