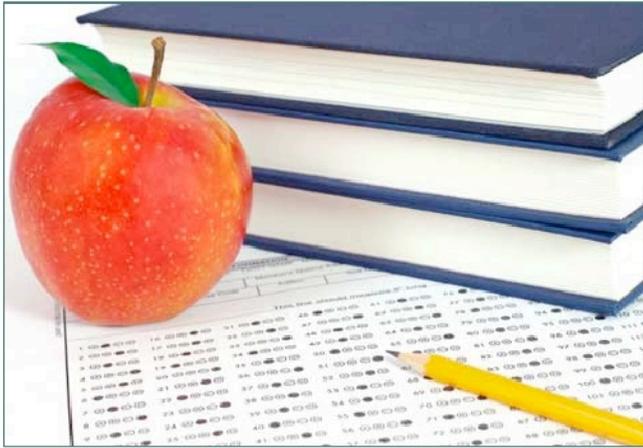


Testing Testing...

A Brief Guide to the Standardized Tests Given at CMS



Our Testing Calendar

Lakeville Area Public Schools Middle School students take several standardized tests throughout the year.

September/October:
Grades 6, 7 and 8 take the fall **MAP** (Measures of Academic Progress) in Reading and Mathematics. These tests are administered online.

October:
Grade 8 takes the **EXPLORE** (pre-ACT) test. Subjects covered are English, math, reading, and science. This is a paper/pencil test.

January/February: Grades 6, 7 and 8 take the winter **MAP** in Reading and Mathematics. These tests are administered online.

March/April/May:
Grades 6, 7 and 8 take the **MCA**s (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) in Reading and Mathematics. These tests are administered online.

Grade 8 takes the **MCA** in Science. This test is administered online.

Why We Give Standardized Tests

We measure students' academic achievement and growth throughout the year, using a variety of tools. Most often, we measure students according to their work in their individual classes. We also use state and national assessments throughout the school year so that we can see how our students perform in reading, mathematics, and science when compared to students in other middle schools in Lakeville, in Minnesota, and across the nation. Test results help to inform our instructional practices so that we can better meet our students' learning needs.

We use students' test scores to help us determine placement in honors and acceleration courses.

How We Prepare Our Students for the Tests

Every content area has Essential Learnings that follow the learning standards for the state of Minnesota. The MCA and the MAP tests are aligned with the state learning standards. This means that our core classes (English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies) help to prepare students for the exams through the very nature of their curricula. Our teachers also conduct test practice lessons throughout the year. For students who have posted below average scores on previous tests, we offer after-school tutoring sessions (through Targeted Services) during the winter and spring. We enroll some 6th and 7th grade students in our Math Acceleration and Reading Acceleration classes to give them additional help with their skills.

About the MCAs

The MCAs (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) are the state tests that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The reading and mathematics tests are used to determine whether schools and districts have made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward all students being proficient. Reading and mathematics tests

are given in grades 6, 7 and 8. A science test is given in grade 8. Starting in spring 2013, all the MCA tests will be administered online. Students with IEPs may take the MCA tests in a small group setting and may have other accommodations that are approved by the Minnesota Department of Education. Score reports for individual students are shared with families at fall conferences each year.



About the MAPs

The Northwest Evaluation Association MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Assessments were developed by NWEA to measure individual student progress during the school year.

Students take a math test and a reading test early in the school year. Results from the fall tests

are shared with students and families at fall conferences.

Students take the math and reading tests again in the winter. We hope to see growth in our students'

scores from the fall to winter tests. The results from the winter tests are shared with parents at our spring conferences.

Teachers review the test results to help determine areas of improvement for individual students.

MAP scores are also used to help determine students' qualifications for enrollment in honors courses.

All MAP tests are administered online. The tests are adaptive, meaning that, as students answer more questions correctly, the questions become more difficult. As they answer questions incorrectly, the questions become less difficult.

About the EXPLORE

The EXPLORE test is part of the ACT's Educational Planning and Assessment System. It is designed to help 8th graders explore a broad range of options for their future. EXPLORE prepares students not only for their high school coursework, but for their post-high school choices as well. Through

EXPLORE, students' strengths and needs can be identified early in their secondary education, when they have the greatest opportunity to establish a four-year program of studies that will help them achieve their career and educational goals. EXPLORE takes approximately two and one-half hours to adminis-

ter and covers four areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. Each of those four areas contains between thirty to forty questions. Students are given thirty minutes to complete each area. Results are reviewed with students at school and are shared with parents at spring conferences.