

January 2012

Dear Parents

Beginning January 2012, the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District will be using a computerized adaptive assessment for students in grades 2 – 7 and with selected students from other grade levels. This assessment system, **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)**, measures a student's general knowledge in reading and math. It was developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association and is widely used by school districts across Wisconsin and the nation.

The Measures of Academic Progress are computerized adaptive assessments. The assessments present students with engaging, age-appropriate content. As a student responds to questions, the test responds to the student, adjusting up or down in difficulty. The results allow teachers to see their students as individuals – each with their own base of knowledge. Each of the assessments will last approximately 45 minutes.

Measures of Academic Progress will take place sometime during the **January 9th – February 3rd assessment window**. The assessments will be administered again in the spring (April 21st – May 15th) in order to measure academic growth from the previous assessment window. You will receive a report showing your child's growth following the spring assessment window.

In describing what excellence in assessment looks like, Richard Stiggins of the Assessment Training Institute (Portland, OR) captures it best when he writes, "We tap the true power of assessment when we use it to provide evidence of student achievement for public accountability, information for internal programmatic decision making, information for students, teachers and parents to inform classroom level decisions and the insight and motivation students need to aspire to academic excellence."

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District maintains high standards of excellence. We strive to develop more effective ways of analyzing assessment data to deliver quality instruction that enhances student learning. Thank you for your continued support.

George Mavroulis
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Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District