

About the MAP tests

Dear Parents,

As you are aware students in G3 to G5 will be taking their Spring MAP tests over the next few weeks. The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) has been developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) in the United States and is used across the US and in many international schools as an assessment tool. Please read the information below and review the attached schedule.

ABOUT THE MAP TESTS

The MAP test is one of the many methods used at KIS to assess student learning. It provides a snapshot on a given day of students Reading, Language Usage and Mathematics ability. Although the content of the test does not exactly compare with the KIS curriculum it is relatively close and allows administrators, teachers, parents and students to access and use the data to support student learning and observe student growth.

As a school we can use the data to make instructional decisions, to adjust curriculum documentation and assess our overall scores against other schools. This is valuable information to ensure that the academic programme at KIS remains challenging and appropriate for our students and for the specific grade levels.

Teachers use the data as a tool to assess individual student success throughout the year, using the Descartes (learning continuum) teachers can view each student's areas of strength and areas suitable for goal setting and further development. As each child learns differently and at different rates, and English proficiency levels vary from student to student it's not surprising that results also vary. However, knowing where each individual student is with regards to their learning teachers can target specific areas and support appropriate growth.

Parents can follow their child on their learning journey and support them with their goals for improvement. You are able to see how your child is developing over time and feel confident that the MAP test results, along with the many other assessment strategies used at KIS, will provide a detailed picture of your child's learning and ensure instruction is at your child's performance level.

Students are able to access their results and conference with the teachers to set goals for further development. Conferencing, goal setting and teacher feedback provide students with the opportunity to take ownership of their learning and work with the teachers to set targets for their own growth.

Preparing your child for testing

- Make sure they have a good night's sleep the night before testing takes place
- Make sure they have a good breakfast
- Encourage them to do their best but so not put pressure your child, we are looking for growth in your child, it is not a competition
- Let them know it's OK to be a bit nervous, ask them to talk to you about it, their teacher or Ms. Krista
- Don't make comparisons with other students

Student MAP Scores

Student MAP testing results are reported in RIT scores (short for RaschUnit). A RIT score is an estimation of a student's instructional level and also measures student progress or growth over time in school. The RIT scale is an equal-interval scale. It is used to chart your child's academic growth from year to year. This type of score increases the value of the tests as a tool to improve student learning because it enables teachers to pinpoint what students have learned and what students are ready to learn. The MAP results shows how your child has grown from one testing period to the next and one year to the next in mathematics, reading, and language usage.

READING YOUR CHILDS MAP RESULTS

Understanding RIT Scores - It is important to understand that the MAP test is one test at one point in time; it does not take into consideration that your child may be tired, restless, sick or unable to focus for any particular reason. Neither does it measure intelligence or a student's capacity for learning. EAL students may well know the answer to some of the problems but are unable to access the questions due to language limitations and/or a lack of vocabulary knowledge. For these reasons, when making important decisions about student learning, teachers will consider the MAP test results along with other data such as in-class assessments, work-samples, PM benchmarks, classroom performance, other test scores, and input from the students, parents and other teachers.

Understanding Lexile Scores: The test results also provide a Lexile score; this is a valuable piece of information about reading ability or the difficulty of a text. The purpose of the score is to assist the teacher and you in identifying appropriate reading materials. This information can be found on your child's report card.

Growth over Time – We expect RIT scores to increase over time. Typically, younger students show more growth in one year than older students. Students who test above grade level often show less growth. Sometimes RIT scores may decline from one test to the next. A low test score is not necessarily a cause for concern. Like adults, students have good and bad days and their test results do not always indicate what they know. Students' attitudes toward the test can also affect their score. Use this information along with your child's report card, conferencing with the teacher and other measurement results to determine your child's growth. This information is based on the Comparative Data provided by NWEA (this will be available on the KIS Community Blog).

If you have any questions or would like additional information please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself at junev@kis.ac.th

Warm Regards,



June van den Bos
KIS Primary Principal