



September 14, 2018

Dear Parent,

From September 17 through October 5 your child will take a MAP® Growth™ test from NWEA® on a computer or tablet. We give students MAP Growth tests to determine their instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year (and from year to year) in math and reading.

MAP Growth tests are unique in that they adapt to your child's level of learning. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. This results in a detailed picture of what your child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level.

Since MAP Growth tests provide immediate and accurate information about your child's learning, it's easy for teachers to identify students with similar scores that are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics, and then plan instruction accordingly. The MAP test also focuses on individual student growth, not just meeting a standard benchmark. The ability to see growth over time is a helpful tool.

MAP Growth reports also provide typical growth data for students who are in the same grade, subject, and have the same starting performance level. Each school year, students in grades 2-8 take the tests in fall and spring. Following these testing periods, you will receive a report showing your child's growth, which you can review with your child's teacher for more insight. In the winter, we do a mid-year assessment for the teachers to see how the students are progressing.

All of the Catholic schools are using NWEA MAP as our assessment tool. This tool allows us to see individual student growth, but also assess our school's instruction in reading and math. CSCOE, the Catholic School's Center of Excellence, continues to provide support for schools to learn more about the data, how to utilize this information to support both student and school improvement. Teachers will receive on-going training on the use of the NWEA MAP data. As a school, we will learn how to use this data to assist us in providing strong reading and math instruction.

As with all assessments, this is one lens and a snapshot in time for each child. But it is a helpful tool. We are working hard to prepare our students to do their best so we can see how much they can grow this year. You can help as well by providing a good night's sleep, solid breakfast and encouragement for them to try their best, too. We appreciate your support as we begin our testing process.

We are truly excited to focus on your child's individual growth and achievement. For more information about the MAP Growth test, visit: [NWEA.org/Parent-Toolkit](http://NWEA.org/Parent-Toolkit). Thank you for your continued partnership as we seek to bring the 'potentiality' of all students at Annunciation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Cassidy, Principal