

Diocese of Gaylord 2020/21 Assessment Program

	Fall			Winter			Spring		
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May
NWEA (Web-based MAP)	Fall Testing Window Sept. 8 – Oct. 10, 2020						Spring Testing Window April 5– May 14, 2021		
	OPTIONAL K-1 st Grades			OPTIONAL 2 nd – 8 th Grades			OPTIONAL K-1 st Grades		
	REQUIRED 2 nd - 6 th Grades Reading and Math			Please notify Office of Catholic Schools if you are interested in participating in a winter testing window.			REQUIRED: 2 nd – 4 th Grades Reading and Math		
	7 th - 10 th Grades (if not taking ACT Aspire) Reading and Math						5 th + 6 th Grades Reading, Math, Science		
							7 th – 10 th Grades (if not taking ACT Aspire) Reading, Math, Science		
ACT							REQUIRED: ACT ASPIRE 7 th – 10 th Grades (if not taking NWEA)		
							ACT 11 th + 12 th Grades		
ACRE							REQUIRED: 5 th , 8 th , and 11 th Grades		
AIMSweb DIBELS (OR LIKE ASSESSMENT)	RECOMMENDED K – 6 th Grades (All Students) 7 th + 8 th (Students below grade level)			RECOMMENDED K – 6 th Grades (All Students) 7 th + 8 th (Students below grade level)			RECOMMENDED K – 6 th Grades (All Students) 7 th + 8 th (Students below grade level)		

This information is intended to provide an overview of the educational assessment program employed in our schools. More specific information on the individual elements of the program will be provided as each testing event approaches.

Why do we test?

For the student, carefully selected assessment tools can...

- Serve as diagnostic tools to identify instruction levels and to measure student growth over time.
- Help students take greater ownership of their own learning as learning targets become increasingly clear to them and to help them observe their own progress towards learning goals.

For educators, good external assessments serve...

- As tools to assist us in evaluating and fine-tuning our curriculum.
- To increase our instructional effectiveness.
- To help us improve the quality of the classroom level assessments that we use.

The fundamental purpose of assessment at any level is to provide information to guide teaching and learning. It is essential to note that important decisions about students are never made on the basis of a single assessment. Information gained from testing contributes to a balanced view of student growth that also includes each student's daily work, performance on a variety of classroom assessments, and the observations and insights of their teachers.

As each testing event approaches we will provide you with tips and advice on how to appropriately help each child prepare for success. Following each test event, results will be shared with students and parents. What follows is a brief description of each of the key elements of our standardized assessment program.

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ACT

Based on a set of College Readiness Standards, the ACT is the most widely accepted college entrance test. It is taken by 11th and 12th graders to measure academic readiness to make a successful transition to college. Students may take the test multiple times in an effort to improve their score, broaden their college options and qualify for scholarships and grants.

ACT: Aspire

ACT Aspire replaces both the Explore test in 7th and 8th grades and the PLAN test in 9th and 10th grade. Much like PLAN and EXPLORE they are vertically aligned tests that monitor progress in the context of ACT college readiness. Just like ACT, students take the English, Reading, Writing, Math, and Science. Online reporting allows teachers to view readiness benchmarks and national norms for all students. Because the ASPIRE tests are reliable predictors of success on the ACT, the results will be used to help students, parents and counselors set goals and to establish their high school program of study.

AIMSWeb

As our children grow, many doctors weigh our children and measure how tall they are. This information is often put on a chart. This chart shows where our child stands compared to other children and how fast they are growing. These charts help doctors to understand if our children are growing properly or if something may be wrong, enabling them to do something to help as soon as possible. Doctors use children's height and weight as "Well Checks", or vital signs of development. We all know how important it is for our children to "grow" in reading as well. In fact, successfully learning to read at an early age is probably one of the most important factors in a child's learning, both inside and outside of school.

Because reading and reading growth are so important, our school administers "Well Checks" for reading on a regular basis. We do this with a screening and progress-monitoring tool called AIMSWeb through the 8th grade. This literacy-testing tool is designed to provide information about where students are in comprehension and fluency relative to national grade level norms. All students are benchmarked three times a year (fall, winter, and spring).

The reading probes are simple and accurate. We have your child read three stories from passages comparable to their grade level, and we count the words they read correctly, as well as how well they read the stories. Additionally, comprehension is also assessed through a MAZE Comprehension tool. We like to think of it as taking your child's reading temperature. Your child's data is tracked and recorded in web-based software from AIMSWeb. From there we can produce many reports that give us a clear picture of your child's progress. As you can imagine, AIMSWeb is quite a powerful and informative tool that allows us to focus on individual student growth.

DIBELS

DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) is a series of short tests that assess early childhood (K-6) literacy. It is a set of procedures and measures for assessing the acquisition of a set of K-6 literacy skills, such as phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, accuracy and fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The theory behind DIBELS is that giving primary school students a number of quick tests, educators will have the data to identify students who need additional assistance and to monitor the effectiveness of intervention strategies. The DIBELS comprise a developmental sequence of one-minute measures: recognizing initial sounds (phonemic awareness), naming the letters of the alphabet (alphabetic principle), segmenting words into phonemes (phonemic awareness), reading nonsense words (alphabetic principle), oral reading of a passage (accuracy and fluency), retelling (comprehension), and word use (vocabulary).

NWEA (MAP): Measure of Academic Progress

The MAP test is a computerized, adaptive testing instrument used with students in 2nd – 10th grades in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science (MAP for Primary Grades K-1 may also be given). It is designed to provide two key measures to students and their educators: It identifies student instructional levels relative to a defined Learning Continuum, and it measures student academic growth over time. As such, it has great potential to directly affect instruction and student achievement.

Because the tests are adaptive and individualized, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. MAP tests give us detailed, accurate information about each student's growth. We are then able to focus on every child's individual growth and achievement. Partnering to help all children learn, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the academic achievement. For more information on resources for parents you can access the NWEA website www.nwea.org

NCEA: ACRE

The National Catholic Education Association's ACRE (Assessment of Catechesis and Religious Education) is given to students in 5th, 8th and 11th grades. This test helps schools assess the faith knowledge and attitudes of students in an effort to improve curriculum and instruction. The test, which takes less than an hour and is administered in religion classes, helps schools assess the faith knowledge and attitudes of students in an effort to improve curriculum and instruction. The results will be provided to you and your student. Results are not used to evaluate (grade) students.