



September 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As the Waunakee Community School District continues to provide an excellent educational program to the students in the district, it is important to assess student progress in their learning. Assessment data tells stakeholders (teachers, administrators, you and your child) where strengths and weaknesses are in student learning.

This is the seventh year that the district is administering the MAP test (Measures of Academic Progress). These tests determine your child's instructional level and measure academic growth from year to year in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language usage.

MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests your child will take on a computer. That means the test will adjust to your child's answers - if your child answers correctly, the test will get more difficult; if your child answers incorrectly, the test will get easier. This means that your child will take a test specifically created for his/her learning level. In addition, your child will have had the opportunity to learn the information presented on the test because the tests are aligned with the district curriculum and state standards.

Your role as a parent is vital! It is important that you support your child by talking with him/her about the importance of taking the test seriously and putting forth his/her best effort. Also, during the testing window it would be especially helpful if your child gets adequate rest, attends school so that he/she can take the test with classmates, eats a well balanced diet, and is as free from distractions as much as possible. You can learn more about the tests by going to www.nwea.org and clicking on student and parent blue box on the lower right.

This year's fall testing window starts **September 13th and ends October 1st**. Your child's teacher will have specific information regarding the dates that your child will be tested. Once testing is completed you will receive results with an explanation of the results and how to interpret the reports.

If you have any questions regarding the MAP test, please feel free to contact either your child's teacher or me at 849-2176.

Sincerely,

Chris Hetzel
Principal