



September 17, 2021

Dear Catholic Schools Families,

We are excited to share that the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma is implementing a reading and math assessment called **MAP Growth**. MAP Growth will be used in grades 2-8 beginning this 2021-2022 school year. This replaces the Iowa Test of Basic Skills Assessment typically administered annually each spring. Instead of asking all students the same questions, MAP adjusts to each child's performance—giving a more accurate measure of what they know. Teachers also receive results right away, which enables them to react more quickly. In addition to classwork and regular class tests/quizzes/projects, MAP Growth will provide our teachers with important insight into the instructional needs of each of our students. Our goal is to meet the individual needs of our students and provide a learning environment that promotes growth.

What is MAP?

We know that children learn better and faster when teachers have a clearer picture of what each student knows and is ready to learn next. MAP assessments measure what students know and are ready to learn—to help teachers plan and differentiate with each unique learner in mind. Every child can learn and grow. MAP allows us to meet your child where they are and provides us with data to inform instruction.

MAP Growth is a computer-adaptive test. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next question is easier. This type of assessment challenges top performers without overwhelming students whose skills may be below grade level. This program will help us determine your child's strengths and areas for growth, personalize their learning, and monitor their progress throughout the school year.

The purpose of this type of adaptive test is not to give your child a score or grade but to determine how to best support their learning. Diagnostic testing will occur initially two times per school year, fall and spring. There will be a learning curve for the students, even for the most tech savvy student! But this program's data and learning resources will help our teachers become more intentional educators and help students discover educational successes. Ultimately, MAP shows *growth over time*.

While our teachers will be reviewing practice tests with students, you can also help them to prepare. Please help your child:

- Get a good night's sleep and eat a full breakfast the day of the assessment.
- Encourage them to try their best on each question and to not rush.
- Tell them not to worry about questions they do not know—it is expected and normal that they will get only about half of the questions correct.
- Remind them to be respectful of other students who take longer to complete tests.

Thank you for your continued support of our Catholic schools and for being a partner in your child's learning! We look forward to sharing MAP information with you throughout this year and the coming years. If you have any questions about MAP, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal or your child's teacher. You can also learn more about MAP by visiting <https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/>

Sincerely in Christ,

David W. Dean
Superintendent of Catholic Schools