



December 4, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone is feeling well and settling into our virtual learning. The purpose of this letter is to share information with you about upcoming Middle of the Year assessments. Students in 2nd-8th grade will be taking the Scantron Performance Series Assessment for reading. All students in 1st-8th grade will be taking the math Scantron assessment. These middle of the year assessments help us to monitor your child's academic growth for the first part of the school year. Teachers will email out the specific schedule for each class.

The first virtual testing went fairly smoothly, but there are some changes that we would like to make for the second round of testing. It is important that your child answer the questions on their own, without the help from an adult or older sibling. You may help them with the sign on process (if they need it) and then leave them to take the test independently. The test results help the teacher plan what is needed for instruction. If your child is getting guidance from you or another adult, it can skew the results. Our goal is to help your child with the skills they need to grow and learn. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Some feedback we received at the beginning of the year was that the test asked questions that were too difficult for students to answer. The Performance Series assessment is a computer-adaptive test, which means it is unique for each child as it adjusts to each child's ability level. It individualizes every testing experience and more accurately measures your child's ability.

- As your child answers each question, the test adapts according to his or her response. Questions get easier when your child answers incorrectly and get more challenging when he or she answers correctly.
- All of the students will not see the same test questions and the number of items may vary.
- The students are allowed as much time as needed to take the test. They can pause and come back to the test if they choose to do so.

It may help to let your child know that some questions will seem easy, some will seem hard, and some will seem to be just right.

Below are copies of *A Parent's Guide to Performance Series*, which contain detailed testing information that you may wish to read prior to your child's testing.

[Scantron Parent Guide.pdf](#)

[Scantron Spanish Parent Guide SP.pdf](#)

Another assessment called DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) will be given to Kindergarten, 1st and 3rd graders by their teacher. Your child's teacher will set up individual testing times for each child. DIBELS are measures that help teachers and schools determine how students are performing on important reading skills.

Thank you,

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