

NWEA

At Fort Calhoun Elementary, which grades are being tested?

-We are presently testing all students in grades K-6th grade.

What subjects does MAP assess?

-We are using the MAP tests in the area of mathematics and reading assessments.

When will my student be tested and how often?

-Fort Calhoun Elementary tests students three times a year. This typically is in the Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Do all students in the same grade take the same test?

-No. NWEA assessments are designed to target a student's academic performance in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science. These tests are tailored to an individual's current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. If a school uses MAP, the computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test.

What are NWEA assessments used for?

-NWEA assessments are used to measure your student's progress or growth in school. You may have a chart in your home on which you mark your child's height at certain times, such as on his or her birthday. This is a growth chart. It shows how much he or she has grown from one year to the next. NWEA assessments do the same sort of thing, except they measure your student's growth in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science skills. The scale used to measure your child's progress is called the RIT scale (Rasch unIT). The RIT scale is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart your student's academic growth from year to year.

How do teachers use the test scores?

-NWEA tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. They let teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas.

Teachers use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom.

What are some ways that I can help my child prepare for this test?

- Meet with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress.

- Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork. Parents and teachers working together benefits students.

- Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.

- Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.

- Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.

- Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child learns new words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's school about a suggested outside reading list or get suggestions from the public library.