



September 11, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students in Years 7 to 11,

Re: 2019 Implementation of NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessment

As you may know, for many years, Chatsworth has been using the NWEA MAP Assessment to assess students from Years 4 to 11 across our international campuses.

The MAP Assessment is used by top international schools in Asia and around the world and helps us to understand the educational needs of students, and gives us comparison data with similar students in the region and worldwide. Our students take the MAP assessment two times per year, in September (commencing September 19th this year) and again in March.

MAP is a computer based, adaptive assessment that measures student ability and progress in Mathematics, English (Language usage), and English (Reading). Over time, we are generating valuable learning data, and teachers are using MAP as another valuable source of information in the classroom, for example they are able to:

- use MAP assessments to understand the instructional needs of each student in class
- group students together in flexible groups, to enable target learning opportunities
- quickly identify exceptional children and students with gaps in understanding
- we use MAP to look at a student's growth over time
- we use MAP as another of (many) sources of academic information related to placement in classes (ie Math classes, IB Diploma eligibility)
- We use MAP as one (of many) sources of data in determining scholarship eligibility for our IB Diploma students.

There are a variety of uses for MAP at the school level as well, and results at a class and year level will be scrutinized by our PYP and MYP Curriculum Coordinators and Heads of Department (Secondary) to validate the rigor of our curriculum and inform curriculum development. MAP will be used internally, and will not form part of our students' reports.



Further details about the MAP assessment may be found on their website, at <https://www.nwea.org/map-growth/>. In addition, we have included a brief Question and Answer, answering the most commonly asked questions about MAP and its use.

Our schedule for the MAP tests is shown in the table below. Students should report to room D301 (the Upper Hall, unless a different location is specified) with their charged laptop. All students will be given one class period to do the test and may stay until the end of the second period if that additional time is needed to complete the test. Students are advised to bring a book to read or something to work on quietly if they finish the test before the end of the first period. Students who miss a test due to absence will be asked to retake the test at a later date.

	Wed 18th Sep (Day 5)	Thu 19th Sep (Day 6)	Fri 20th Sep (Day 7)	Mon 23rd Sep (Day 1)	Tue 24th Sep (Day 2)	Wed 25th Sep (Day 3)
9:00		Y10 - Math	Y7 - Math	Y10 - Reading	Y11 - Lang Usage	Y7 - Lang Usage
11:10		Y11 - Math	Y11 - Reading	Y8 - Reading		Y9 - Lang Usage
13:45	Y9 - Math (in C302, C304)	Y8 - Math	Y9 - Reading	Y7 - Reading	Y10 - Lang Usage	Y8 - Lang Usage

Sincerely,

Mark McCallum
Campus Principal
Head of Secondary



Questions and Answers

Who or what is NWEA?

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is a not-for-profit educational organization committed to helping schools improve learning for all students. NWEA partners with more than 2,200 school districts and dozens of top international schools, representing more than three million students. As a result of NWEA assessments, educators can make informed decisions to promote your child's academic growth.

Where can I learn more information about NWEA?

Visit their website www.nwea.org.

Which Years are being assessed at Chatsworth?

Commencing August 2013, all Years from 4 to 11 (Grades 3 to 10) have been assessed at both Chatsworth campuses.

How is the MAP Assessment administered?

The MAP is computer based. Students in Primary will use their classroom computers and students in Secondary will use their own laptops. MAP is web-based for our students and the implementation is easy with no need to install software to administer MAP on student computers.

What is the MAP Assessment?

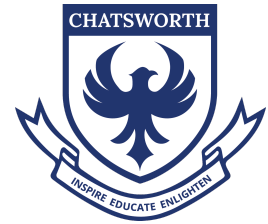
The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) is a computerized adaptive assessment developed by the Northwest Educational Association that focuses on Mathematics, English (Language Usage), and English (Reading). When taking a MAP assessment, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier.

Is there a cost for the MAP Assessment?

Yes, there is a cost per student but there are no additional costs for Chatsworth parents associated with this assessment. All costs are covered by the school.

What will the school do with the results?

Chatsworth will be using the results for several purposes. Firstly, to generate objective data, over time, to measure our student's growth. NWEA assessments are used internally by the school to measure students' progress or growth in school.



What subjects does MAP assess?

We are using the MAP assessments in the area of Mathematics, English (Language Usage) and English (Reading).

How long does it take to complete an assessment?

Although the assessments are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each assessment. These assessments are conducted during the school day.

When will my child be assessed and how often?

Although it is possible to take the MAP reliably up to 4 times per year, it is our plan to use the MAP assessment twice per year with our students, approximately in September and March each year. We also use this to assist our admissions process and scholarship applications as well.

Will I be notified at every assessment?

No. Due to the rolling nature of the assessment, we will not be informing parents every time we assess. This will simply become one additional assessment point for our teachers to use, and will be part of our program.

How does the school prepare students for taking the MAP?

Like any assessment, we will speak with students ahead of the assessment and tell them what the test is about, and give them sample questions to understand the process.

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. 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. 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 internally by the school to measure students' progress or growth in school and analyze our academic programs. Results may also be used to highlight areas of strength or areas of improvement for specific students, and provide us with more information about possibly student placement. Anonymous results may also be used in school accreditation reporting, and research purposes, which may lead to presentations at educational and/or professional conferences and research publications.

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.



Will MAP assessments be sent home with students?

No, we will be using the MAP assessments for internal instructional use only. Parents receive feedback on the growth of their children as related to MYP and DP objectives and criteria via Report Cards (4x per year for Secondary) and Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences (2x per year), as well as other more informal instances depending on school section.

Does MAP align perfectly with the Chatsworth MYP and DP curriculum?

Although there are over 32,000 possible MAP questions that the computer draws on, there is no assessment that will align 100% with our own needs as these types of assessments are written with a broad student base in mind. This is not a huge issue, however, as we look to trends over time. MAP is just an additional data point of many for us to look at when evaluating our programmes overall.

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

There is no special preparation needed for the assessment. Supporting your child with their everyday school is in essence supporting them with this assessment. *Encouraging them to do well and do their best is the very best preparation that can be done.*