



Dear Parents,

Beginning **Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> through Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, scholars in **6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade** will take the Winter administration of the reading and math MAP<sup>®</sup> Growth<sup>™</sup> test from NWEA<sup>®</sup>. For this testing session, we will have students taking the exam on campus and at home. Students in the same section will be taking exams during the same block of time whether in person or at home via zoom. For the students in the distance learning program, the MAP Growth test is accessible through the regular internet browser on your scholar's distance learning computer or it can be accessed through your personal computer's web browser. Please make sure to allow pop-ups, turn off add-blockers and verify the link to the NWEA test page (<https://test.mapnwea.org/#/>) before November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you receive a window that says "oops" the pop-up blocker has not been disabled.

As is always the case, students should always make their best efforts on the exams, since we need a good picture of how far they have progressed this year. This information will help shape the instruction that they will receive in the classroom and indicate whether the scholar could use extra support outside of their regular class schedule.

**Campus Schedule for Testing:**

12/2 – 7A, 7E, 8C and 8D  
12/3 – 7B and 7C  
12/7 – 7D, 9A, 9B and 9C  
12/8 – 6A, 6B, 6E, 8A and 8B  
12/9 – 6C and 6D

**Your teachers will provide the specific time-period of testing when we return from break. They will also provide more instructions for distance learners via Google Classroom on November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Before the day of the exam distance learners need to ensure their computer is ready for testing:**

- Once again, please make sure to check your scholar's browser by Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> to ensure that the NWEA site (<https://test.mapnwea.org/#/>) will work on the day of the test. Tablets, iPads, and phones are not recommended for testing due to multitasking challenges.
- Go to <https://check.nwea.org/>, and follow the on-screen instructions.
- For more information about MAP Growth, visit [NWEA.org/familytoolkit](https://nwea.org/familytoolkit).
- Go to <https://studentresources.nwea.org/> click on **grades 2+** to begin a short tutorial.

If you have any questions, feel free to email our testing coordinator [Steven Mapes](mailto:Steven.Mapes).

## **MAP Growth Testing FAQ:**

### **What is MAP Growth?**

MAP Growth is a formative, adaptive assessment that helps us understand our scholars' academic strengths and plan instruction that will support their continued growth. This means that we use the data gathered to get to know our students and understand their learning needs. MAP Growth tests are unique, because they adapt to your scholar's responses becoming more challenging as students answer questions correctly, which allows us to determine the strengths and challenges for students of all academic levels.

### **Is the MAP Growth assessment a new test?**

Students at Great Hearts Texas schools have taken MAP growth since the founding of Great Hearts Irving. Each school year, scholars in grades 6 through 9 take the tests in Math and Reading at three different times of the year to check for progress. The challenge this year continues to be from a technical perspective since we need parental support in preparing the technology and helping students log-in for distance learning.

### **Is MAP a High-Stakes test?**

NO. We give MAP Growth to support learning in the classroom, not to assess teacher performance. The test is not High-Stakes for students, but as always, we ask that your scholars work to their true potential. Before the test, they should get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast. We do believe that MAP Growth Data helps teachers since it helps to shape targeted and effective instruction for our scholars throughout the curriculum.

### **How Are the Results used?**

Results from the MAP Growth assessment will provide a detailed picture of what your scholar knows and is ready to learn. This picture allows our faculty to readily identify a scholar's strengths, and to find the right steps to help them grow. It will also be an indicator to see if your scholar could benefit from extra help outside of their regular class schedule.