



## Westfield Washington Schools

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Sherry L. Grate, Ed.D., Superintendent

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Fall 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian of a student in Grades K-8:

Results are in from our district's fall round of Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) testing. We start the school year with pre-testing using NWEA math and reading tests to measure the performance and growth of our students throughout the year. This testing gives us a baseline to determine where your child is starting the year academically. You may recall from the WWS newsletter that beginning this school year, we are moving to a Fall to Fall model for determining student growth and to reduce the amount of spring testing. The next round of testing will occur in January.

Westfield Washington Schools uses a version of NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) which is aligned to the Indiana Academic Standards (IAS). Students perform tasks such as reading information or solving math problems and answering questions regarding their comprehension and application of the material, highlighting and dragging sentences to an answer box providing justification for their response, and completing missing components in a diagram. NWEA tests match the instruction in our classrooms and the rigor of college and career readiness (CCR) demands. More information on IAS and CCR can be found at <http://www.doe.in.gov/standards>.

Your child will be bringing home individual test results for the fall NWEA testing session. The reports are brief, showing a RIT score, district average, and a national average. "RIT" stands for Rasch Interval Unit—an equal interval scale based on the difficulty level of the question and shows growth in student learning by helping to track skill growth over time. If your child tested last year, you will see those scores on the chart as well. It is not uncommon to notice RIT drops from first to second grade as the test is no longer read to students beginning in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade unless the students have specific accommodations based on IEPs, ILPs, or 504. Please note that students will achieve smaller increments of growth as they near proficiency since it is not possible to test some skills very discretely at the highest end of proficiency in a subject. Please also keep in mind that this is only one measure of your student's growth and performance during the 2019-2020 school year.

Administrators and teachers in our schools can offer assistance when questions arise about NWEA results or classroom instruction. Information on NWEA MAP can be found at <http://www.nwea.org/>. More information, including a sample NWEA Student Progress Report and a video explaining the Student Progress Report can be found on our district's website, [www.wws.k12.in.us](http://www.wws.k12.in.us) in the Learning Systems Department.

Sincerely,

Lynn Scheme!, Data Systems and Assessments Coordinator