

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test results from this school year are enclosed with this letter. These tests determine your child's instructional level and measure academic growth in the areas of mathematics and reading.

MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests your child took on a computer. That means that the test became more difficult the more questions your child answered correctly. When your child incorrectly answered a question, the test became easier. Therefore, your child took a test specifically created for his or her learning level.

Your child's MAP results are reported in *RIT scores*. This is a different type of score than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. It is also different than many tests that provide results based on your child's score compared to others in his or her grade. Instead, the RIT score is an equal-interval scale, like feet and inches, that is independent of grade level. As a result, we can easily measure growth in learning. This type of score increases the value of the tests as a tool to improve student learning because it enables teachers to recognize where to focus attention for your child's learning.

MAP testing is a powerful tool for monitoring student growth over time. The *Normative Data Overview* provides an overview of the 2011 norms including the scope of the study, the methodology used, and the ways norms can be used by educators to review their student data. This document provides status norms of RIT scores, with norms samples for Mathematics, Reading, Language Usage, General Science, and Science Concepts & Processes. Your child took only the Reading and Mathematics assessment. This report is located at: http://www.nwea.org/sites/www.nwea.org/files/resources/2011_Normative_Data_Overview.pdf

I would like to draw your attention to a few useful components of the attached report:

- *Page 2* contains a Quick Reference Chart with definitions of each component included in the report
- *Lexile Range* – This range indicates a student's reading ability and can be correlated to difficulty levels of reading materials. You can find more information about this measurement at <https://lexile.com/about-lexile/lexile-overview/>
- I would advise you to focus on the spring scores as these best represent your child's growth over an entire calendar year. Occasionally, a fall score indicates a decline and this is most often attributable to the summer recess. The growth from spring to spring reflects the growth a student has from the end of one grade to the end of the next grade. For more on negative growth, visit <http://community.nwea.org/node/420>

I hope you find the report informative. For more information on interpreting the score report, please access the Parent Guide to NWEA Assessments located at: <http://www.nwea.org/sites/www.nwea.org/files/resources/ParentToolkit.pdf>. Thank you for taking an active interest in your child's education.

Sincerely,

