

Christine Fowler-Mack
Office of Portfolio Management



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Parents/ Guardians of a CMSD Scholar,

As the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) gears up for the new school year, we will begin with remote learning. Teachers will determine where students are in their learning to strike the right balance between the introduction of new content and the review of missed skills from the prior year.

CMSD will administer the NWEA (MAP) tests in early fall to identify your child's current level to pinpoint their instructional needs.

You may ask, "Why are students taking the NWEA test?" The NWEA provides teachers and principals with data needed to make important decisions about student learning. Whether instruction is administered face-to-face, remotely or a hybrid of the two, data from NWEA helps educators to:

- see what students have already learned – and what they're ready to learn next.
- gauge the effectiveness of instruction so necessary adjustments can be made.
- identify students who are struggling to determine extra supports.
- set goals for student growth and track progress.
- see how students are performing against grade-level standards.

It's important to remember that the purpose of NWEA is *measurement*. Your child's goal isn't to answer every question correctly, but rather to do their best. No matter the student's final score, teachers will use NWEA data to plan daily instruction.

When your child is taking an NWEA test at home, as a parent or caregiver, you may feel compelled to provide a few hints or – in the case of younger children – read the question and answer choices aloud – this is understandable. It can be difficult to watch your child struggle or select an incorrect answer. In this case, though, parents best help their children *by not helping them at all*. To ensure appropriate student instruction and supports – now and in the future—teachers must have a clear understanding of what students are able to accomplish independently.

We encourage you to review this video link for a better understanding of NWEA (MAP) testing:
<https://bit.ly/3ifr4aZ>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Christine Fowler-Mack'.

Chief Portfolio Officer