



Dear GEMS Families,

NWEA MAP Growth testing for reading and math will take place virtually for grades 3-8 at the end of January during one of your students' regularly scheduled classes (see schedules below). The MAP Growth Test helps determine what a student knows, how much they grow over the course of the year, and is used by teachers and students to reflect and set goals for learning. Students will take the MAP Growth test in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Your students' performance on this test will not affect their grade, however, it is very important that they try their best, without help, so that teachers get a clear picture of their strengths and areas for growth.

**Watch this video to learn more about MAP growth:**

<https://www.nwea.org/resource-center/resource/what-is-map-growth/>

### What is MAP Growth?



**MAP Growth helps coaches understand what students know today, so goals can be set to improve growth throughout the year. Learners cannot pass or fail this test.**

**This test will not affect grades.** In fact, it's normal for learners to only answer about half the questions correctly. **Please don't help them!**

Given the challenges of learning from home, MAP Growth test results are especially helpful for us this year. **These results will help us know what learners are ready to learn.**

#### 3-4 MAP Growth Testing Schedule

- **Wednesday, January 27 at 9:00am** - Reading MAP Growth Test
- **Friday, January 29 at 9:00am** - Math MAP Growth Test

3rd and 4th grade students will go to their regularly scheduled crew class at 9:00am and will complete the MAP growth test during that class time. Teachers will provide further directions for what to do when they finish the assessment.

#### 5-8 MAP Growth Testing Schedule

- **Tuesday, January 26 at 12:00pm** - Reading MAP Growth Test
- **Thursday, January 28 at 12:00pm** - Math MAP growth test

Students in grades 5-8 will have their regularly scheduled art or physical education class in the morning. At noon they will login to their regularly scheduled first period class to take the MAP assessment. They will not have math, humanities, or science lessons in the afternoon on these two dates.

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Graham Elementary and Middle School

140 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43201 P: (614) 253-4000 F: (614) 643-5146 [www.GEMSSchool.org](http://www.GEMSSchool.org)

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### How can you support your student(s)?

- Make sure they get a full night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast or lunch prior to the test.
- Have an adult available to help your student log in to the testing portal on the dates of their MAP test. Teachers will walk students through this process, however, it will help to have an adult in the room who can support them too.
- If your student asks you to help them with a problem they don't understand, remind them that it is okay to not know the answer. All we ask is that they try their best. The MAP test adjusts the difficulty of questions based on whether they answer correctly. If they are answering questions correctly, it will give them more difficult problems because it is trying to find your "just right level." If they do not know the answer they should make an educated guess and move on. To help us get an accurate picture of their knowledge and skills please do not help them with the test questions.

### MAP Growth Resources:

- K-2 MAP Growth [https://studentresources.nwea.org/app/k\\_two/k\\_to\\_two.html](https://studentresources.nwea.org/app/k_two/k_to_two.html)
- 3-8 MAP Growth <https://studentresources.nwea.org/app/gradetwoplus/gradeTwoPlus.html>
- Family Toolkit: [www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/](http://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/)

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions please reach out to us at [office@gemsschool.org](mailto:office@gemsschool.org) or 614-253-4000.

Sincerely,

James Kutnow  
Executive Dean

Jordan Templeton  
Dean of Instruction

Leah Mejia  
Dean of Students (K-4)

Jisuka Cohen  
Associate Dean of Students (5-8)

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