

September 4, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This month, your child will participate in the computer-adaptive STAR assessment designed to help teachers assess students quickly, accurately, and efficiently. This benchmarking/universal screening tool provides teachers with reliable and valid data instantly to enable educators to target instruction, monitor progress, provide students with the most appropriate instructional materials, and intervene when necessary. Teachers and administrators use real-time data from STAR to make decisions about curriculum, assessment, and instruction at the classroom, school, and district levels. Three STAR assessments measure student achievement and help educators determine what skills students are ready to learn in four areas:

- STAR Early Literacy assesses early literacy and early numeracy skills
- STAR Reading assesses reading skills
- STAR Math assesses math skills

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are computer-adaptive tests?

Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses the question, the difficulty level is decreased. Computer-adaptive tests save testing time and spare children the frustration of items that are too difficult, and the boredom of items that are too easy.

How often will my child take the STAR assessment?

The STAR assessment will be administered to students, pre-K through grade 10, three times per year. The assessment is a "well check" designed to ensure that students are mastering skills at their grade level. Students who demonstrate areas requiring intervention will then be progress monitored in those skills using STAR assessment 1-3 times per month.

How long does it take to complete a STAR assessment?

On an average, students will complete the STAR Math assessment in 20 minutes, the STAR Reading assessment in 15 minutes, and the STAR Early Literacy assessment in 15-20 minutes.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Parents will receive a STAR report following the first screening in September, after the second screening in January, and again at the end of the school year. Teachers will be able to share progress monitoring data for those students receiving intervention during conferences and meetings to discuss academic growth, or as requested by the parent.

What kind of score does my child get and what's the target?

For every STAR assessment your child will receive a scaled score and an associated percentile ranking, which is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct answers. Scaled scores are useful for comparing your child's performance over time and across grades.

How can I help my child prepare for the assessment?

Encourage your child to do his or her best on the assessment as this tool is one of several data points used to make instructional decisions for your child. STAR is a general measure of a student's abilities in math and reading, and students perform best when they are well rested, have eaten well, and attend school regularly.

If you would like to learn more about the STAR assessments, please contact your child's teacher or visit the STAR website at www.renlearn.com.

Sincerely,



Sandra Allaire
Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Learning
Timberlane Regional School District
(603)382-6119 X2228