

## **W. H. Council Traditional School Assessment Policy**

Established: September 2006

Revised: February 2011

### **Philosophy**

W H. Council Traditional School acknowledges that assessment is integral to teaching and learning. At Council, assessment is an ongoing process. Formative and summative assessments are used to evaluate student performance, plan for further student learning, and address individual learning styles. Council follows the standardized system of assessing student academic performance mandated by the Mobile County Public School System as well as incorporating the assessment methods and strategies recommended by the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

Assessment should effectively guide students through the five essential elements of learning:

- The understanding of concepts
- The acquisition of knowledge
- The mastering of skills
- The development of attitudes
- The decision to take action

These elements are addressed through collaboration and planning units of inquiry as defined by International Baccalaureate Organization. At Council, we use a variety of assessments which are continually modified in order to reach all students' individual learning styles.

### **Assessment Tools**

We at W. H. Council Traditional School are committed to using a variety of testing methods and formats to assess our students' knowledge, growth, and ability to apply skills and concepts. The following assessments are those which we use to evaluate all aspects of the educational program at Council:

- Pre/post assessments
- Formative assessments
- Rubrics (knowledge, skills, collaboration, performance)
- Performance assessments
- Self evaluations
- Peer evaluations
- Mobile County Public School System End of Quarter Tests (EQT)  
Reading (K-5), Math (K-5), Science (4, 5)
- Accelerated Reader/ STAR
- DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills, grades K,1 and 2)
- Alabama Reading and Math Test (3, 4, 5)
- ARMT + (Alabama Reading and Math Test Plus, grades 3, 4 and 5)
- Anecdotal records
- Teacher-made tests and quizzes

## **Assessment Recording and Reporting**

Assessment-reporting occurs continuously and systematically throughout the school year. Teachers record student performance using INOW, a grade book and reporting software, which generates a printed assessment report. Teachers record narrative comments in addition to the printed reports. Parents receive a formal report every nine weeks and a mid-quarter report is also provided for additional monitoring and feedback to parents. Parents are able to access their child's progress from home via INOW.

Communication of a student's progress is essential to student success and should be seen as an opportunity for parents, teachers, and students to exchange information that will help the student. In addition to assessment reports, Council teachers communicate informally with parents throughout the school year via notes, e-mails, the school website, and phone calls. Fall conferences with parents are designed to share specific information regarding the student's academic, social, and emotional needs and goals. Additional conferences are scheduled by the teacher and/or parent as needed. Annual parent/teacher/student conferences are required by the Mobile County Public School System for students in grades 4 and 5 and must be completed before the end of the first semester. *IBfPYP* Learner Profile Reflections are completed by students at all grade levels and sent home at the end of each semester.