



April 3, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Jennings School District will administer the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Grade Level Assessment to students in 3rd through 8th grade April 18—May 12, 2017. The Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Grade-Level Assessments evaluate students' progress toward the Missouri Learning Standards. Grade-Level Assessments provide important information that contributes to decisions concerning individual students, groups of students, and educational programs. Assessments are given in the subject areas of Communication Arts (grades 3-8), Mathematics (grades 3-8) and Science (grades 5 and 8).

A policy statement, adopted by the Missouri State Board of Education, designated the purposes of the Missouri Assessment Program as:

- Improving students' acquisition of important knowledge, skills and competencies;
- Monitoring the performance of Missouri's education system;
- Empowering students and their families to improve their educational prospects; and
- Supporting the teaching and learning process.

The Grade-Level Assessments include multiple types of questions or items:

- **Selected Response** (also known as multiple choice) items are composed of a question followed by a series of possible responses. Students must select the correct response or responses.
- **Constructed Response or Short Text** items require students to supply an appropriate response rather than making a selection from a list of choices.
- **Performance Tasks/Events** allow students to work through more complicated items using real-world scenarios.
- **Technology Enhanced** items make use of technology in the presentation of the item, the ways in which students respond, or both. For example, students might listen to a story and then drag and drop labels into a diagram, or click on specific parts of a text to provide a response.

The importance of testing cannot be emphasized enough. While we do not feel that students should become overly anxious about this testing, we do believe they should be made aware of the impact of the testing on their academic evaluation. Your cooperation during the weeks in this matter—including seeing to it that **your child is present, on time, receives a healthy breakfast, and a good night's sleep**—would be most appreciated. Please know that the State of Missouri prohibits the use of ANY electronic devices during testing. Therefore, **students' cell phones will be held and secured by classroom teachers and returned at the end of each testing session.** A check in/out system will be utilized. If you object to such practices, cell phones will need to remain at home.

We understand that YOU are your child's most important advocate and cheerleader. We need your full support in making sure your child is at school, on time and takes this assessment as serious as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Curt Wrisberg

Curt Wrisberg
Principal

