Dear Families:

During the next few weeks, your student will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine your child’s instructional level; to measure academic growth throughout the school year; and to measure growth from year to year in the areas of reading and mathematics. Results from MAP are available immediately and so it will support our teachers in knowing what students have learned and the progress they are making. Teachers will use this information along with observations, daily work and other tests/quizzes as they consider how to adjust instruction to help each student succeed.

The tests will be taken using a computer, and your child will spend a total of about an hour and a half completing these tests. MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child’s level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child’s growth.

Each school year, all students in grades Kindergarten through Ninth Grade and some 10th, 11th and 12th graders will take the tests in September or October, January and June. This year, teachers will share information about fall MAP results during parent-teacher conferences in November at the elementary level. Scores will be available on The Source for all levels later this fall.

We are truly excited to have this tool available to our teachers and students as it will help us focus on every child’s individual growth and achievement. Consistently tracking student progress and using that data to help improve student achievement is a key strategy to ensure that all students are successful.

Thank you for partnering with us as we work together to ensure an excellent education for your child. To learn more about MAP, please attend the Family Academy at South Shore School on Saturday, October 16 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. *Understanding MAP* is just one of the many valuable sessions offered for families that day. Interpreters, childcare and refreshments will be available.

You may also visit the Seattle Public Schools MAP website: http://www.seattleschools.org/area/mapassess/index.dxml.

Sincerely,

Seattle Public Schools