



Arlington Archers: New Family Orientation

Module 6: Standardized Testing



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Philosophy

At Great Hearts we focus on supporting our teachers and students in the formation of the highest intellectual virtues. In pursuit of this noble goal, we utilize a variety of assessments to monitor our instructional practices and ensure our students are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to maintain their course toward the True, the Good, and the Beautiful. Information gleaned from assessments are the mile posts that help us understand how far we have come along the way, and assist us in making any needed course corrections in our journey.

While high assessment outcomes are indicators of the strength of our academic program, they are not the goal of our educational journey and do not consume a significant portion of the academic year. For the average student, the time spent taking diagnostic and standardized assessments is equivalent to less than 8 hours over the whole of the school year in grades 3 through 7.



mCLASS Texas Edition

The mCLASS Texas Edition is a reading diagnostic tool which takes approximately 8 minutes to complete. Built on the nationally recognized DIBELS 8 reading assessment, mCLASS Texas Edition helps teachers understand where scholars are in their journey to literacy. The assessment is administered one-on-one by a trained teacher and given 3 times during the school year for all students in grades K-2 and to students in grades 3-6 who require extra support in reading.

Information from the mCLASS Texas Edition will be used to screen for dyslexia in Kindergarten and first grade, and to inform interventions for struggling readers in Kindergarten through grade six.



NWEA-MAP Growth

NWEA-MAP Growth is an assessment of reading and math which is given to students grades 2 through 9. Students work at their own pace, and most students complete the assessment in 30-60 minutes depending on their grade level.

MAP Growth is an adaptive assessment which dynamically adjusts as each student progresses through the assessment, yielding important insights about how the student has grown and what they are ready to learn. MAP Growth is also a normed assessment, which allows teachers and students to quantify growth in reading and math compared to students nationally.



LAS Links and TELPAS

LAS Links and TELPAS are given to scholars who are learning English as a second language. The assessment measures English proficiency in the areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The results of the assessment help our teachers provide a level of instructional support that allows scholars to learn English while still participating with their other peers on an academic level that is rigorous and engaging.



State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR)

The State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is a series of assessments required by state law for administration by all public schools, including public charter schools. The Texas Education Agency uses the STAAR to ensure that we are meeting our promise to provide our scholars with a quality education that meets or exceeds the state's standards for academics at each grade level from 3rd grade through high school.

3rd through 7th grade scholars will take 2-3 assessments per year. STAAR assessments are designed for elementary age scholars (3rd-5th grade) to be finished in less than 2 hours. Students in grades 6-8 will typically complete the STAAR within three hours.



STAAR, continued

Content of STAAR exams by subject and grade level:

1. Mathematics, annually in grades 3–8
2. Reading, annually in grades 3–8
3. Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7
4. Science in grades 5 and 8
5. Social studies in grade 8

Successful performance on the reading and math STAAR assessments in grades 5 and 8 is required by Texas law. 5th and 8th grade students who fail to pass the reading and math STAAR assessments will receive intensive instructional support and will have up to two additional opportunities to pass the assessments in order to promote to the next level.

STAAR Modified and STAAR Alternate will be available for eligible students receiving special education services, as determined by the student's ARD committee.



Questions?

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Great Hearts Arlington! While we have endeavored to provide meaningful information about our **standardized testing**, we recognize that there may be unanswered questions. Please feel free to reach out to us at ArlingtonInfo@GreatHeartsTXSchools.org. Go Archers!

In partnership,

The Great Hearts Arlington Upper School Team

