



GreatHearts[®]
Lakeside

Lakeside 101: Family Orientation Sessions

Session 6: Standardized Testing

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Philosophy

At Great Hearts Lakeside, we support our teachers and students in the formation of the highest intellectual virtues. We utilize a variety of assessments to monitor our instructional practices and ensure our students are equipped with the skills to successfully pursue Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. The information received from assessments help us gauge well we are equipping our students.

Excellent assessment outcomes indicate the strength of our academic program however, they are not the goal of our program. Preparation for these assessments does not consume a large portion of instructional time.

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-5.

Information from the mCLASS Texas Edition is used to screen for dyslexia in kindergarten and first grade, and to inform interventions for struggling readers in kindergarten through fifth grade.

NWEA-MAP Growth

NWEA-MAP Growth is an assessment of reading and math which is administered to second through ninth grade. Students work at their own pace, and most students complete the assessment in 45-60 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 through high school. STAAR assessments for elementary age students (2nd-5th grade) are designed to be finished in less than 2 hours.

STAAR, continued

| | 3 rd | 4 th | 5 th | 6 th | 7 th | 8 th |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Math | | | | | | |
| Reading | | | | | | |
| Writing | | | | | | |
| Spelling | | | | | | |
| Grammar | | | | | | |
| Science | | | | | | |
| Social Studies | | | | | | |

STAAR exams by subject and grade level

Successful performance on the reading and math assessments in 5th and 8th grade is required by Texas law in order to promote to the next grade level. 5th and 8th grade students who do not pass the reading and math assessments will receive intensive instructional support and will have two additional opportunities to pass.

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 about standardized testing at Great Hearts Lakeside. While we have endeavored to provide meaningful information about **standardized testing**, we recognize that you may have further questions. Please email any questions to info@greatheartslakeside.org.

In partnership,

The Great Hearts Lakeside