

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

Ways to help prepare for testing

- ☑ Communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis. Parents and teachers working together benefit students.
- ☑ Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.
- ☑ Create a routine homework/study schedule.
- ☑ Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class.
- ☑ Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- ☑ Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child learns new words that might appear on a test. Outside reading lists are available at the public library.

## **Germantown School District Administration Team**

Susan Borden, Ph.D. District  
Administrator

Cynthia Coley  
Asst. District Administrator  
Director of Human Resources

Ric Ericksen  
Director of Business Services

Marc Gabrysiak  
Director of Technology

Jennifer L. Ganske  
Director of Teaching and Learning

Ann Goebel  
Director of Pupil Services

Joel Farren  
Germantown High School Principal

Marc Lehnerer  
Germantown High School Associate Principal

Steve Williams  
Germantown High School Assistant Principal

Steve Bold  
Kennedy Middle School Principal

Mark Kaminski  
Kennedy Middle School Assistant Principal

Adrienne Schneider  
MacArthur Elementary School Principal

Cathy Schultz  
County Line Elementary School Principal

Lynn Bub  
Rockfield Elementary School Principal

Maria Kucharski  
Amy Belle Elementary School Principal

## **Germantown School District MAP Testing Parent Overview**

**For additional information on MAP testing contact your building principal.**

It is the goal of Germantown School District to provide every student with quality instruction designed to meet their individual needs. The use of assessments plays an essential role towards meeting that goal. Every year in the state of Wisconsin, all students in third through eighth grades and grade ten, must take the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Test (WKCE) test in reading and math, and in writing, science, and social studies in designated grade levels.

The state tests are based on the Wisconsin State Standards and give us valuable information regarding the status of our students in relation to students across the state. This is only one measure however. A number of data points are used to track your child's progress. This brochure describes our new district wide assessment, "Measures of Academic Progress" or MAP.

### **What is a MAP test?**

MAP is a computerized test in Reading, Language Usage and Math. The tests are not timed, but usually take about one hour to complete each test. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of the question is adjusted based on the student's previous answer. For example, if the student answers the question correctly, the next question is harder. If answered incorrectly, the next question is easier. The test adapts to the student's level. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level. This score is called a RIT score.

### **How often are students tested?**

All students in grades three through nine will be tested in fall, winter, and spring. Students are tested in reading and math and language arts will be added to the testing schedule in the future.

### **What is a RIT score?**

The RIT score is a measure of individual achievement. As students take MAP Tests over a period of time, the RIT scores will also be a measure of academic growth.

Just as a doctor has charts for height and weight for children, the chart below shows "typical" scores for students in grades 3-9 who are tested in the fall, winter, and in the spring. For a chart of typical scores, based on national norms, please access [http://www.germantownschoools.org/cms\\_file/s/resources/2011%20Normative%20Data%20Reference.pdf](http://www.germantownschoools.org/cms_file/s/resources/2011%20Normative%20Data%20Reference.pdf).

### **What is the percentile score?**

The percentile rank tells you how your child is doing compared to other students in the same grade nationally who have taken MAP tests. For example, if your child has a percentile score of 75 on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading, that means he/she scored better than 75% of all students nationally who have taken the MAP test.

### **What is a Lexile?**

A Lexile is a unit for measuring text difficulty and reading comprehension. It is a value assigned to a book, with 10L (Lexile) being at the low end of the scale and 1700L at the high end. Books for beginning readers are listed as BR on the scale. The Lexile range is included on the Individual Student Progress Reports. It allows teachers and parents to find books that are appropriately challenging for each student.

The Lexile website can be accessed free of charge at [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com). You can search by title, author, theme, interest, and Lexile range. It currently includes thousands of titles both in Spanish and English.

### **How do teachers use the test scores?**

Teachers keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. The tests also let teachers know where there are specific areas of need. This information is used to guide classroom instruction.