



March 2012

Dear Parent(s):

This winter, students at Ivy Hill took a Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. All second grade students took the math and reading tests, and all fifth grade students took the language arts test. In addition, select third, fourth, and fifth grade students took the mathematics and reading tests. If your child was administered a MAP test this winter, you will find his/her report enclosed with this trimester's progress report.

MAP assessments assist staff to evaluate your child's instructional level and to measure academic growth in the areas of math and reading. MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests your child took on a computer. That means that the test became more difficult the more questions your child answered correctly. When your child incorrectly answered a question, the test became easier. Therefore, your child took a test specifically created for his or her learning level. In addition, your child should have had the opportunity to learn a majority of the information presented on the test because the tests are aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards and the Arlington Heights School District 25 curriculum.

Your child's MAP results are reported in *RIT scores*. This is a different type of score than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. It is also different from many tests that provide results based on your child's score compared to others in his or her grade. Instead, the RIT score is an equal-interval scale, like feet and inches, which is independent of grade level. As a result, we can easily measure growth in learning. This type of score increases the value of the tests as a tool to improve student learning because it enables teachers to recognize where to focus attention for your child's learning.

We hope you find the enclosed report informative. Generally, we find that our students increase in their RIT scores each time they take the test. However, there are times when a student's score may decrease from one testing session to the next. This is not reason for concern, but is more likely an indication that one of the scores may not be a valid score. We continue to look for trends as we examine students' growth in all assessment and performance areas.

For more information on resources for parents, access the Document Library at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org) and download the online *Parent Toolkit* from our web site. Thank you for taking an active interest in your child's education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristy A. Csensich".

Kristy A. Csensich  
Principal



