

Overview of Assessment in Grade 2 and 3

Two Kinds of Assessment: Formative & Summative

Formative Assessments are given throughout the year. These are often closely aligned to instruction and help to inform teachers about how students are developing understanding. We use the results of these assessments to make instructional decisions.

Summative Assessments are given periodically and help us assess a cumulative body of knowledge and skills. We use the results of these assessments to help identify overall strengths and weaknesses. We also use aggregate data from summative assessments to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of our program and curriculum.

“Formative” Assessments

ELA:

- Class work
- Running Records
- Conferences
- Reader’s Response
- Writer’s Notebook & Published Pieces
- Spelling Check ups & sorts

Math:

- ECAM (Diagnostic Interview)
- Class work
- Performance Tasks
- End of Topic Check Ups
- Exemplars

Science & Social Studies:

- Class work
- Check-Ups
- Projects

Physical Education:

- Practice fitness testing (monthly) to prepare kids and set goals

Art, Music & Spanish: Regular, project-based assessment

“Summative” Assessments (Standardized & Given at Key Benchmarks)

ELA:

- Grades 2 & 3: Fountas & Pinnel (F&P) Reading Assessment (Measures: Accuracy/Fluency, Vocabulary, Comprehension)
- Grades 2 & 3: Words their Way Assessment (Measures facility with word patterns and families; F&P High Frequency Words lists (Measures knowledge of high frequency words that do not follow typical patterns)

- Grade 2: Terra Nova3 Test (Measures: Reading, Language Mechanics, Spelling, Word Analysis, & Vocabulary)
- Grade 3: NYS ELA Assessment (April, 2009) (Measures grade 3 ELA standards)

Math:

- ECAM Interview (Full interview given at the beginning and end of the year)
- Grade 2: Terra Nova3 Tests (Math Concepts & Math Computation)
- Grade 3: NYS Math Assessment (May, 2009) (Measures grade 3 Math standards)

Science & Social Studies:

- Grade 4: NYS Science Assessment (Spring, 2010)
- Grade 5: NYS Social Studies Assessment (Nov, 2011)

Physical Education:

- Baseline and end-of-year fitness testing (Measures endurance and agility)
- Paper and Pencil final test (Measures understanding of skills, games,, fitness concepts and team work skills)

Questions and Answers

Q: Why do we give standardized assessments in grade 2?

A:

- The preparation and taking of the test offer students some experience with standardized testing before they take state tests.
- We compare the results to other assessment data to help monitor student progress and identify areas of strength or growth.
- We evaluate our program.
- One of several criteria for entrance into grade 3 challenge programs.

Q: What are the drawbacks to doing this?

A:

- We devote instructional time to testing. The TerraNova3 tests require 2 entire days of instructional time to complete. We spread this out over many days.
- Testing can make some children anxious. We like to try to identify test anxiety early so we can support students long before state tests in grade 3.

Q: How can parents help?

A:

- Do not overemphasize testing with your children. Keep them at ease and let us know if you sense that they are anxious.
- Attend our testing workshop in the late winter to learn about tips for helping students prepare and helping students manage any worry or anxiety.
- Read with your child every night.
- Do your best to talk about what you've read, watched or listened to with your child so you can work on comprehension skills.
- Follow recipes together so children can practice measurement, counting and sequencing.
- If you notice that your child completes something too quickly (homework, chores or any task), urge him or her to go back and check or fix his or her work.

Q: What has changed about Grade 3 Testing?

A: Timing and Content

- Grade 3 ELA has moved from January to April. Students will be expected to know more, read at a slightly higher level and have sharper skills.
- Grade 3 Math has moved from March to early May. A handful of math content standards that were not on the Grade 3 test previously will be added.

Thank you to the parents who came to chat with me on Monday night. Special thanks to Ms. Ochoa for translating.

Parents, if you have any questions about assessment in grades 2 and 3, please know that you can reach out to me anytime by phone (914-631-4144) or by email (mfitzgerald@tufsd.org). –Mrs. Fitzgerald