

# NWEA PARENT-TEACHER ORIENTATION

Natomas Charter School  
Pursuing Academic Choices Together

# WHAT IS NWEA?

- Northwestern Evaluation Association
- State aligned computerized individualized assessments
  - Mathematics
  - Reading
  - Language Usage
- Adaptive Assessment
  - The test responds to the student and adjusts up or down in difficulty
- RIT Score
  - Neutral scoring tool that is not confined to grade level
- Lexile Score
  - Educational tool that matches reading level to readers
- Diagnostic skills tests

# BENEFITS

## Homeschool Families

Immediate results  
(in some cases 1-2 days)

Monitors growth over time

Spans grade levels: allows for precise  
intervention of instruction

Scores align with STAR results

Assessments "resume" from prior test

Understandable, usable data specific  
to each student's needs

Accurate results

## PACT Program

Immediate and timely results

Immediate ability to assist families in  
target areas

Ability to target need areas by grade  
or within classes

Effective collaboration between  
Educational Advisors and Parent  
Teachers to individualize instruction

Provides longitudinal data necessary  
for accountability

Shows growth that STAR data does  
not and documents continuous  
growth

# HOW DOES IT WORK?

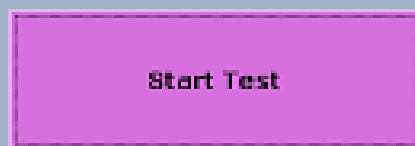
- NWEA Assessments are for K - 12<sup>th</sup> grades:
  - Math (K thru 12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Reading (1<sup>st</sup> grade thru 12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Language Usage (2nd grade thru 12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Adaptive Assessment
- PACT Program assesses 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
(Optional to test K-1<sup>st</sup>)
- "Survey with Goals" Assessment
  - More comprehensive
  - Approximately 42 questions per test
  - Ability for the data to be tracked over years
  - 45-60 minutes per exam
  - Breaks down results into content clusters that parallels STAR

# WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE?

- Questions are displayed on the computer screen and the student will select an answer using the mouse or the keyboard.
- The difficulty of the test will adjust to the student's performance. It will build a test individualized for each student.
- Students are not expected to know the answers to every question and will need to use his or her best test taking strategies.
- Students will need to answer every question, you cannot skip a question, nor can they go back to a previous question.

The first screen will look like this.

Students make sure that their name is listed at the top of the screen.



They then wait for directions and click on the "Start Test" button when prompted.

$$\begin{array}{r} 9002 \\ - 503 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- A. 8491
- B. 8498
- C. 8499
- D. 8500
- E. 8493

**This is a sample math item.  
The students can work the  
problem scratch paper and  
click on the best answer.**

**Once they have chosen their  
answer, they click on the “Go  
on” button at the bottom of  
the screen.**



Go on

Joe wants 9 cars. He has 5.

How many more does he need?

- A. 5
- B. 4
- C. 3
- D. 2
- E. none of these

This is another sample math item.

Notice the calculator at the bottom. It will appear for some items. The student will use it just like a regular calculator, only they click on the buttons with the mouse instead of pressing them with their finger.



Read the paragraph.

The schoolgirl had on a new dress and a new pair of shoes. She brought a new notebook and two sharpened pencils with her to school on that first, important day.

Which word tells what the person is like?

- A. neasy
- B. eassy
- C. pretty
- D. new

**This is a sample reading item.**

**Students read the passage and select the best response.**

**They then click the “Go on” button to move to the next item.**

Go on

Read "Grandma Wood" from Women of the West by Rick Stober. \*

#### Grandma Wood

Mary Ramsey was born in Tennessee, May 20, 1787. She married at seventeen, had four children, and moved to Georgia where her husband died in 1839.

A decade later Mary moved her family to Missouri and then brought them across the Plains in a covered wagon to Oregon. She rode the entire distance on a mare she named Martha Washington Pioneer.

At the age of 67, she married John Wood in Washington County. John had built the first frame hotel in the town of Hillsboro. Mary outlived John.

She was known as Grandma Wood, and when she became a centenarian, friends and relatives threw a party for her. That day she reminisced, and told about seeing General George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. She claimed that the highlight of her life had been "the time Andy Jackson asked me to dance. He was the best president this country ever had. He knew how

What does this passage reveal about Grandma Wood's character?

- A. She was a vain and selfish.
- B. She was intimidated and did.
- C. She was frail and had almost the beginning of life on the
- D. She didn't care for people who weren't right.

Some reading items have scroll bars on the passage. Students must move the scroll bar down to see the entire passage by using the mouse.

# REPORTS

- Student assessments are formally given in spring and fall
- Assessments may be given in winter or any other time, per your request or per the request your Educational Advisor
- Individual reports can be generated 24 hours after the test
- School-wide results can be generated approximately one-week after testing window closes
- Results are broken down by subject and then by sub criteria
- Reports are cumulative to show growth over time

# SHARING RESULTS

- Every student tests differently
  - Not leveled with grades
- Take time to talk with your Educational Advisor
  - How do you want to share the results?
  - What format do you want to use?
  - How do you want to incorporate this new data?

# REPORTS

## STUDENT PROGRESS REPORT



### Natomas Charter School-PACT Student Progress Report for [REDACTED] NCS-PACT

Growth is measured from Fall to Spring

Student ID: [REDACTED]

#### Mathematics

Season/ Year	Grade	Student Score Range	Dist. Avg RIT	Norm Group Avg.	Student Growth	Typical Growth	Student %ile Range
W10		193-198-199	231	231			2- 3 -4
F09		194-197-200	222	229			2- 3 -5

#### Mathematics Goals Performance - Winter 2010

Number Sense	Low
Algebra & Functions	Low
Measurement & Geometry	Low
Statistics & Probability	Low
Mathematical Reasoning	Low

#### Reading

Season/ Year	Grade	Student Score Range	Dist. Avg RIT	Norm Group Avg.	Student Growth	Typical Growth	Student %ile Range
W10		185-188-191	221	221			2- 2 -4
F09		167-171-175	218	219			1- 1 -1

#### Reading Goals Performance - Winter 2010

Word Analysis & Vocabulary	Low
Inform Struct & Critique	Low
Comprehend & Analyze Text	Low
LA Response & Analysis	Low

Lexile Range: 290-440

#### Explanatory Notes:

**Season/Year**  
The season (F=fall, S=spring, W=winter, U=summer) and the year the test was administered.

**Student Score Range**  
The middle number is the RIT score your child received. The numbers on either side of the RIT score define the score range. If retested, your child would score within this range most of the time.

**District Average RIT**  
The average score for all students in the school district in the grade who were tested at the same time as your child.

**Norm Group Avg.**  
The average score observed for students in the most recent NWEA RIT Scale Norms study, who were in the same grade and tested in the same portion of the instructional year (e.g., fall or spring).

**Student Growth**  
Presents the growth in RITs your child made from the previous fall to the spring of the year in which growth is reported.

**Typical Growth**  
The average growth of students in the most recent NWEA RIT Scale Norms study who were in the same grade and began the growth comparison period at a similar achievement level.

**Student %ile Range**  
The number in the middle is your child's percentile rank - the percentage of students in the most recent NWEA RIT Scale Norms study that had a RIT score less than or equal to your child's score. The numbers on either side of the percentile rank define the percentile range. If retested, your child's percentile rank would be within this range most of the time.

**Goal Performance**  
Each goal area included in the test is listed along with a descriptive adjective of your child's score. The possible descriptors are Low (<21 percentile), LowAvg (21-40 percentile), Avg (41-60 percentile), HIAvg (61-80 percentile), and High (>80 percentile).

**Lexile Range**  
The difficulty range of text that can be understood by the student 75% of the time.

#### Language Usage

Season/ Year	Grade	Student Score Range	Dist. Avg RIT	Norm Group Avg.	Student Growth	Typical Growth	Student %ile Range
W10		181-184-187	220	220			1- 1 -1
F09		163-166-169	221	218			1- 2 -2

#### Language Usage Goals Performance - Winter 2010

Writing Strategies	Low
Writing Applications	Low
Sentences / Grammar	Low
Punctuation / Spelling	Low

# REPORT

## STUDENT GOAL SETTING

 **NWEA Student Goal Setting Worksheet**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Term Range: **Fall 09 - Spring 10**

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mathematics

RIT ranges in bold indicate a relative area of strength, those in italics represent possible areas of concern.

Goal Strand	RIT Range	
	Fall 2009	Winter 2010
Number Sense	<b>201-214</b>	201-216
Problem Solving	-	198-215
Algebra & Functions	<i>186-200</i>	-
Computation	-	<b>221-242</b>
Measurement & Geometry	200-215	203-219
Statistics & Probability	195-210	202-218
Mathematical Reasoning	192-205	-
Algebra	-	<i>192-207</i>

Student Action Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Language Usage

RIT ranges in bold indicate a relative area of strength, those in italics represent possible areas of concern.

Goal Strand	RIT Range	
	Fall 2009	Winter 2010
Writing Strategies	198-211	205-218
Writing Applications	<i>190-203</i>	<b>208-220</b>
Sentences / Grammar	194-207	<i>196-209</i>
Punc / Cap / Spelling	<b>208-221</b>	199-212

Student Action Plan: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# REPORT

## LEXILE

- Lexile is a reading scale score
  - Reading at instructional level
  - Assessments shows Lexile growth over time
  - [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com)
  - Used to located suggested reading material

# WHAT NEXT?

- Opportunity to collaborate with your Educational Advisor
  - Appropriate “leveled” curriculum
  - Target one learning strand
- Utilize DesCarte
  - Provides sequential learning goals
  - Organized by RIT scale
- Additional assessing available
  - Skill sets
  - Midyear

ANY QUESTIONS?

**Want more info?**

**[www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org)**