



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of Curriculum and Instruction

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Washington Township School District utilizes Renaissance Learning's Star Reading and Star Math screening and benchmarking tools to support teachers in their daily classroom instruction. This tool is one of our district resources that personalizes learning for every child, monitors student progress, estimates students' understanding of state standards, and provides parents with meaningful feedback regarding their child's overall academic growth.

All Star assessments are computer-adaptive tests which continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased. Computer-adaptive tests save testing time and spare your child from frustration and boredom that can occur when items are too easy or too difficult.

It is important to remember Star benchmarks are only one source of measurement and one data point of your child's academic performance. Before making instructional decisions, multiple sources of data are always considered.

Benchmarks:

Students in **2nd grade through 12th grade** are administered two Star benchmarks (fall and winter). Students in **1st grade** are administered one Star benchmark (winter). The purpose of this assessment is to measure and monitor a child's academic growth in literacy and math. Based upon where the student begins, a predictive growth target is set for every child. Teachers then customize learning for students to ensure that learning targets are met.

| STAR Testing Windows for 2023-2024 | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Fall Window (not Grade 1) | September 13, 2023 – October 13, 2023 |
| Winter Window | February 1, 2024 – February 28, 2024 |

Reports:

Star Parent Reports will be sent to families approximately one week after the testing window closes. The assessment focuses on skills aligned to standards in your child's grade level. Please keep in mind that the benchmark is not inclusive of an in-depth analysis of all standards; therefore, you should view this skills-based report as one source of information. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to reach out to your child's teacher, the reading specialist (grades 1-5), or the middle/high school interventionist (grades 6-12). For more information on Star assessments, kindly view the YouTube video at <https://tinyurl.com/vcgkeash>. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction