



# Kensington Parkwood Elementary School

## Home of the SOARing Eagles

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The following topics will be covered in this week's community message:

- MAP Testing
- Interims
- Social Emotional Learning

### **MAP Administration in a Virtual Setting**

We have begun to pioneer our state MAP assessments in the virtual setting. As with anything new and never done before, challenges have arisen and as a staff we are working to ensure the student testing experiences are as positive as possible. Our teachers will continue to communicate dates and times for their specific testing schedules, so please look for this communication from your child's teacher. **It is crucial that you try not to support your child with the content of the assessment, but you are welcome to support the technical aspect if you are available.**

Many of you have inquired about opting out of the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments. We wanted to ensure that you know the value of having your child participate in the assessments. As you know, we transitioned to a virtual learning environment last March, and MAP will provide us with valuable data on your student's current performance on grade level standards at this time, after many months of remote learning. The MAP assessments provide detailed reports for teachers to support instructional decision-making. Data obtained from MAP can help teachers plan scaffolding and differentiated instruction. Results from the MAP assessments allow teachers to see the performance of your child in literacy and mathematics, and helps them determine whether your child needs intervention or enrichment. MAP results help inform instructional time and flexible grouping - making it easier for teachers to support students who may be struggling with grade-level content and allows for challenging high-performing students with new and more complex material.

*For Grades K and 1 only:*

The Maryland Ready to Read Act, passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2018, requires all students in grades Kindergarten and first grade to take a screener to measure early literacy skills. MAP-RF (Reading Fluency) is the screener that MCPS uses for this purpose. The screener is valuable because it assists us with identifying students who may need further assessment to determine areas of need and potential early reading intervention. Your child's participation will help us to support the literacy needs of all students.



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**Please use the resources below for more information regarding specific MAP Assessments:**

[MAP-RF Fact Sheet](#)

[Understanding MAP/Family Toolkit](#)

### **Interim Reports for Marking Period 1**

MCPS will not be providing interim reports for our elementary students for marking period one of the 2020-2021 school year. Parent Teacher conferences will be scheduled during November. More information will be forthcoming regarding interims for marking periods 2-4.

### **Social Emotional Learning**

Social-emotional learning (SEL) is the process of developing the self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills that are vital for school, work, and life success. Research has shown people with strong social-emotional skills are better able to cope with everyday challenges and benefit academically, professionally, and socially. From effective problem-solving to self-discipline, from impulse control to emotion management and more, SEL provides a foundation for positive, long-term effects on kids, adults, and communities.

This year, our students will engage in SEL during class meeting time which is built into students daily schedules. Teachers will be collaborating with Mrs. Wert, our school counselor, to ensure lessons are developmentally appropriate and include culturally sensitive practices.

Feel free to visit Mrs. Wert's Counseling Corner for more resources to use with your child/children.

<https://kpcounselor.weebly.com/about.html>