



NEW LENOX SCHOOL DISTRICT 122

Assessment Philosophy

New Lenox School District 122 believes assessment should be designed to inform instructional practice and decisions. Assessment drives student learning by identifying strengths and addressing weaknesses. Teachers use the evidence collected to adjust and enhance their instructional delivery. When assessments are used properly, the information yielded is valuable for developing educational opportunities for each learner.

What is assessment?

Assessment *of* learning happens after a lesson or activity has taken place and assessment *for* learning happens while the learning process is underway. Assessment *for* learning is considered formative assessment and appears in the form of descriptive feedback and through engagement of the student and teacher. Assessment *of* learning is revealed through grades, curriculum-based measures, and state achievement tests.

Why do we assess students?

Assessment is a process of gathering evidence of student learning in order to make informed instructional decisions.

What do we assess?

Teachers assess learning targets (benchmarks, standards, skills and procedures) through a variety of methods.

How do we assess?

Assessment comes in many shapes and forms. Most students and parents are familiar with our standardized tests and traditional tests; however, teachers assess continuously using a variety of methods including asking questions, engaging students in dialogue and writing activities, and conducting performance based assessments. aimswebPlus (K-8), TerraNova (2-7), PSAT 8/9 (8) and IAR (3-8) are a few of our standard assessment measures.

Communicating the Results

Feedback is essential to the assessment process. Students and parents receive oral and written feedback through dialogue, assignments and report cards. Our teachers are cognizant that good feedback spurs thinking, problem solving and creativity.

5 Stages in the Assessment Development Cycle

1. Determine the intended uses of the assessment.
2. Identify the learning targets to be assessed.
3. Select the proper assessment method.
4. Administer the assessment.
5. Note any problems with the questions, tasks, or scoring mechanisms on the assessment and rework them.

Comprehensive Assessment Plan

District 122 has a Comprehensive Assessment Plan (CAP) to gather evidence of learning. A CAP Chart outlining the plan can be found on our website.