



Renaissance
Star Assessments

STAR Testing Information: Beyond the Number

The STAR assessments provide valuable insights into a student's academic performance. The assessment results help educators and parents understand a child's abilities and guide individualized classroom instruction. Whether the goal is improving literacy, strengthening math skills, or building early foundational knowledge, these scores are a tool for targeted support and growth.

The STAR assessments are adaptive for each student. As students answer questions correctly, the level of difficulty rises and the current test level is based on his/her performance on the previous test. Because each test is individualized, each student has a different set of questions. As a student's progress reaches proficiency, new standards and skills are tested. Sometimes these standards have not yet been taught. The winter testing usually reflects this more often when students' were at or above benchmark in the fall and performance scores can go down or there appears to be little growth. Spring scores compared to fall scores are a more accurate representation of whether the student is proficient at grade level standards and skills due to curriculum and instruction sequencing and pacing for the year. Once a student is above benchmark for their grade level, the test questions will reflect standards and skills that may not be introduced until the following school year.

Most importantly, the data from each test provides teachers the opportunity to learn more about individual student instructional needs as well as overall class instructional needs. After each testing period, we may decide to retest a student. We base this decision on the amount of time a student took to complete the test, the previous test score, and whether or not the teacher indicates a concern with the score reflecting what he or she sees daily with a student's performance. We do not retest to increase our overall school performance. Although St. Stephen the Martyr School values that our students generally score higher than many schools in the metro area, we firmly believe that STAR testing data should be individualized and help us to make decisions about our curriculum and instruction.