



All About Assessments

AIMSweb

Franklin County Schools use a formative assessment system, which helps teachers individualize their instruction, called AIMSweb. AIMSweb is a web-based information management and reporting system designed to improve general education achievement and increase accountability. It provides useful data on reading fluency, comprehension, spelling, and Early Literacy (phonological awareness and phonics). AIMSweb provides reports that help identify students at risk, help individualize instruction, evaluate student progress to ensure success, and serve as an accountability and communication tool for system improvement. If a child is having difficulty with any reading skills, this program will provide a way to monitor student progress between testing so your child's teacher can measure how effective the interventions are for a child.

County-Wide Math Assessments

Kindergarten students in Franklin County are given paper and pencil math assessments twice during the school year. This assessment cover numbers and sets, shapes, coins and amounts, longer or shorter, sequencing by size, more or less, addition, and subtraction.

Report Cards

Kindergarten students in Franklin County receive a report card every six weeks. Each six weeks the student is responsible for mastering certain skills in kindergarten. The report card will be reviewed at the first parent-teacher conference. Please view the report card to see what your child is responsible for knowing each six weeks. Letters, sounds, and handwriting are assessed throughout the school year.

Saxon Phonics

Sewanee Elementary teachers use Saxon phonics to teach reading and phonics. New skills are introduced by building upon previously taught concepts using a multi-sensory approach engaging visual, auditory, and tactile senses. More information regarding this program will be sent home at a later time.

Star Early Literacy

Kindergarten children in Franklin County are given the Star Early Literacy assessment to help measure their understanding of skills that are important in the development of reading. The Star test is given on the computer three times a year and assesses over 40 different skills in the seven key areas that are important in reading development. After completing the test, your child will be given a score on a scale from 300-900 that is calculated based on both the difficulty of questions and the number of correct responses. Star measures the student's abilities in the seven areas listed below that reading experts recognize for their critical role in literacy development:

1. general readiness - identifying shapes, numbers, colors, and patterns; differentiating word pairs and words from letters.
2. graphophonemic knowledge - using alphabetical order; matching upper and lowercase letters; naming letters; recognizing letter sounds.
3. structural analysis - understanding the structure of words and word parts; identifying compound words; building words; finding words.
4. vocabulary - recognizing synonyms and antonyms; recognizing high frequency words.
5. phonemic awareness - detecting and identifying individual sounds within spoken words; identifying rhyming words, missing sounds, beginning and ending sounds; blending word parts.
6. phonics - reading words by using the sounds of letters, letter groups, and syllables; matching and recognizing long and short vowel sounds; recognizing word families; identifying consonant blends and digraphs.
7. Comprehension- understanding what has been read aloud; understanding word meaning; selecting word that best completes a sentence; answering questions about stories.

The score relates to three developmental stages:

- I. Emergent Reader (300-674) understand that print has meaning, understand that reading involves printed words and sentences, identify colors, shapes, numbers, and letters, can relate words to pictures, beginning to tell difference between words and letters.
- II. Transitional Reader (675-774) mastered alphabet skills and letter-sound relationships, can identify beginning and ending consonant sounds, can identify long and short vowel sounds, can blend words and word parts to read simple words.
- III. Probable Reader (775-900) can recognize many words, can understand what they have read.

Your child's teacher will use the test results to identify strengths and weaknesses within specific areas to help your child become a more proficient reader.