

First Grade Families,

Newport News Public Schools administers screening and diagnostic assessments to determine support needs and monitor student growth throughout the school year.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the screening and diagnostic assessments administered to first graders throughout the year in accordance with [Virginia Code § 22.1-215.2](#). You will receive your child's scores and any needed intervention service information at the end of each assessment.

There is no preparation needed for any assessment listed below. Most tasks on the assessments are administered one-on-one or in a small group setting and are spread across the testing window to allow instruction to continue. Data collected will be used as a baseline of your child's literacy and math understanding and teachers will use it to inform instruction.

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)

PALS is an assessment tool administered in the fall and spring to measure students' literacy development. PALS has two purposes: 1) a screening tool to identify students at risk of reading difficulties, and 2) to inform teachers' instruction through student data.

Fall PALS testing window: September 19 - September 30, 2022

Mid-Year PALS testing window: January 9 - January 23, 2023

Spring PALS testing window: May 8 - May 19, 2023

First Grade Math Growth Assessment

The First Grade Math Growth Assessment measures students' growth in grade level math content and helps to inform teachers' instruction throughout the school year. This assessment will be given three times to include a fall, mid-year and spring administration.

Fall Math Growth Assessment testing window: September 12 - September 16, 2022

Mid-year Math Growth Assessment testing window: January 23 - January 31, 2023

Spring Math Growth Assessment testing window: May 22 - May 26, 2023

At the end of each assessment window, you will receive a letter including your child's score summaries to assist you in monitoring your child's progress and providing support at home. In the event your child does not meet the benchmark(s) on any of these assessments, you will also receive notification of any intervention services provided.

Thank you for your support,

The NNPS Curriculum and Development Department