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# DISTRICT 89

Dear 8th Grade Families,

As the high school admissions process approaches, there are important updates regarding upcoming testing for 8th grade students. These tests play a crucial role in both admissions to the Proviso Township Math and Science Academy (PMSA) and in ensuring proper placement in high school courses.

### Testing Overview

**NWEA-MAP Testing:** All 8th-grade students will take the winter NWEA-MAP test between December 2nd and December 20th. This test measures reading and math skills. Your child's school will provide the specific testing dates. Our students have been taking the NWEA-MAP test since elementary school, so they are already familiar with the format and structure of this assessment. This is a computer-based, adaptive test that adjusts the questions based on your child's responses. On average, it takes about 45-50 minutes, but students can take their time. Students with IEPs or 504 plans will receive their appropriate accommodations.

**Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3):** In addition to the MAP test, students will also take the NNAT3 on November 12<sup>th</sup> or November 13<sup>th</sup>. This test measures reasoning and problem-solving abilities, with no reading or language skills required. This test focuses on nonverbal problem-solving using geometric shapes and patterns. It is not an IQ test. While there's no time limit, most students complete it in about an hour.

### Why These Tests Matter?

**PMSA Admissions:** The scores from both tests will be part of the Proviso Math and Science Academy admissions process. The PMSA application score consists of 35% NWEA-MAP, 35% NNAT3, and the remaining 30% is from the 7th-grade transcript core subjects: English, math, science, and social studies.

**High School Placement:** These test results will also be used to place students in their English and math classes.

### What If My Child Misses a Test?

If your child is absent for either test, they can make it up at school, or you can register for a make-up session at Proviso East High School or Proviso Math and Science Academy. Make-up testing dates will be available in November, December, & January and will be posted on the PMSA website at [www.pths209.org/pmsa](http://www.pths209.org/pmsa).

### How You Can Help Your Child Prepare

To help your child achieve their best NWEA-MAP test scores, encourage them to use the iXL program at home to practice math and reading skills. Students are already familiar with iXL from school and can access it on their devices through Clever. It is recommended that they spend at least 30 minutes each day on each subject to master grade-level skills. Have your child read a book for 30–60 minutes daily. Our goal is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to apply and be strongly considered for this academic option.

The application period is open, and applications must be completed online by January 15, 2025. To apply, go to <https://www.pths209.org/domain/3404> and have your student's State Identification number (the homeroom teacher will give this to your child). PMSA has posted frequently asked questions (FAQs), so please read them carefully. If you have any further questions, please contact [MSAadmissions@pths209.org](mailto:MSAadmissions@pths209.org) or [jgreenhow@pths209.org](mailto:jgreenhow@pths209.org).

Best,



Dr. Michelle Hassan