

**August 29, 2025**

Dear GSA Families,

Last spring, the Girls' School of Austin made the decision to move from the ERB CTP to the NWEA MAP Growth assessment for a variety of reasons. **Not only does the content of the MAP Growth assessment align more closely with our math curriculum, it also gives teachers actionable information about student growth over the course of the school year as well as year over year.** Because of that goal, all GSA students in grades K-8 will take the three MAP Growth subject tests - Reading, Language Usage, and Math - three times a year. **During the month of September, your child will take the first MAP Growth test on an iPad or Chromebook.**

As with the CTP, **teachers at the GSA will not spend class time prepping students for the content on the MAP Growth;** this test is not intended to evaluate teachers' fidelity to a set curriculum and students' learning of that curriculum. MAP Growth is designed to help teachers (and parents!) see student growth as well as strengths and areas for reinforcement and enrichment.

Another reason the faculty at GSA like the MAP Growth assessment is that **it is computer adaptive and adjusts the difficulty of each question based on the student's previous answer.** If a student answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. This results in a detailed picture of what students know and are ready to learn. It's possible they may get questions on content they haven't learned before.

Students can get anxious about taking a test. Consider sharing the following reminders with them.

- ☐ It's okay to ask for help. Your teacher is there to guide you.
- ☐ You might get questions on something you haven't learned. It's okay if you don't know the answer. Pick the one you think is right.
- ☐ Don't rush. It's more important to do the best you can than to be the first to finish.

Teachers and advisors will also help students understand how to approach this kind of online test.

We're excited to provide you with useful information about your child's individual growth and achievement. For more information about MAP Growth, visit [NWEA.org/family-toolkit/](https://nwea.org/family-toolkit/). In particular, we recommend viewing [this short \(1:22\) video overview](#).

Sincerely,  
Rebecca

