

SAMPLE: Please revise as you see fit.

Elementary Version

August 2002

Dear Parents/Guardians,

During the first few weeks of the school year, your child will be taking Poway Unified School District's newly developed assessment, Measures of Academic Progress or "MAPs". Developed by the Poway Unified School District in collaboration with Northwest Evaluation Association, MAPs precisely measures each child's academic growth from year to year in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language usage. The results provide essential diagnostic information that will help the teacher develop a learning plan for each child.

Each test takes about one hour to administer and is taken using a computer. The test is "computer adaptive". The software instantly evaluates each response and, based upon its degree of difficulty, selects the next question specifically designed to evaluate the student's level of understanding. In essence, the test is customized for every student as it is being taken.

Students in grades four and five take the test this year. Some third grade teachers may elect to give one or more of the tests to their students this year as the District considers their value and appropriateness for third grade. Eventually, the test will be administered annually to all students in grades four through nine.

Following each testing period, parents will receive reports that show their child's academic progress for the school year and the skills to be learned next.

For more information regarding MAPs, contact Ray Wilson, Director of Learning Support Services at 748-0010, extension 2279.

We believe MAPs will help us sharpen our focus on student achievement and provide parents, students and teachers with valuable information about each student's academic progress.

Sincerely,