

At Jefferson-Houston students are assessed to measure their academic growth. Assessment results assist teachers in the planning of instruction to meet the needs of each child. Additionally, data from these tests inform and guide our instructional foci and practices as a school.

Below is a summary of all the assessments students at JH take.

### **Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP)**

VKRP is a statewide initiative focused on building a more comprehensive understanding of the school readiness and success. The VKRP is comprised of a direct assessment of kindergartner's mathematics with the Early Mathematics Assessment System (EMAS) and a measurement of self-regulation and social skills with the Child Behavior Rates Scale (CBRS). Together, PALS (please see below) and VKRP provide a comprehensive picture of kindergarten readiness across the domains of literacy skills, math, self-regulation and social skills.

VKRP is administered twice a year, in the Fall and in the Spring.

### **Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)**

The PALS assessment is the State-provided screening tool for the Virginia Early Intervention Reading Initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to reduce the number of children with literacy delay by detecting those challenges early and providing specific types of educational interventions. The PALS measures young children's understanding of the fundamentals of literacy, including phonological awareness (awareness of the sounds of spoken words), knowledge of the alphabet, letter sounds, spelling, word concepts, recognition of words in isolation and oral passage reading.

This assessment is taken by students in kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, in the Fall, Winter and Spring. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who were identified for further reading support also take this test in the Fall and in the Winter.

### **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)**

The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is a computer-adaptive benchmark assessment in Reading and Math for students in grades 2 through 8. MAP is unique, and it adapts to the student's responses to measure his or her skill level. If the student answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. The results provide a more complete picture of what the child knows and is ready to learn – whether it is on, above, or below their grade level.

## **Standards of Learning (SOL)**

The Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments are developed by the State and are required at grades 3 through 8. The SOLs outline the basic knowledge and skills in the four essential academic content areas (English, Mathematics, Science and History/Social Science) that the student should learn as he or she progresses from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The SOLs have been revised in recent years to increase rigor across content area in order to meet national and international benchmarks for College-and-Career readiness, and thus better prepare students to compete in today's global economy. The SOL assessments measures student's mastery of the objectives specified in the SOLs.

This assessment occurs once a year, in the months of May and June.