



*More You
Know Mondays*

SEYMOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Benchmark Assessments

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What is a benchmark assessment?

Benchmark assessments measure how much your child has grown in an area, and also inform the teacher of how your child is progressing against the grade level standards in a certain subject. A benchmark test may be teacher created, which is different than a standardized assessment like MAP or the Smarter Balanced

assessments.

Benchmark tests indicate what students have learned, and also show areas where your child may need more instruction or practice. Benchmarks help identify the specific skills that students have not yet met at a certain point in the year.

Teachers often correct benchmark assessments together, so they can notice patterns of student performance. This helps teachers know what they need to re-teach or extend, in order to help all students learn. It is helpful for teachers to notice if students in one class are more successful on certain questions, so they may learn from each other the best strategies to use with students. Benchmark assessments are also 'equalizers' and help to make sure that all students are learning the same curriculum even though they have different teachers.

Not every assessment is a benchmark assessment. Teachers often create their own assessments to spot check learning along the way, and often teachers may use a same (common) quick assessment to see if their students are progressing at the same rate. While some of these shorter, quick assessments may be written, others are verbal check-ins with students, or even anecdotal notes a teacher makes as a student completes work.

What can parents do?

- Seymour teachers use PowerSchool to post assignments and scores on student work. You can see what your child is learning and how he/she is doing by logging onto your computer or the PowerSchool app. If you need help with this, please reach out to your child's teacher.
- At any point, talk with your child about what he/she is learning. Ask them how they know they are learning, as well as about the content or skill. "How do you know that you know X" can be an interesting and fun conversation!
- Assessment is a complex concept, and if you have questions as to how your child is progressing or learning, please contact your child's teacher.