

Dear Bancroft Families:

During the coming weeks, all MPS students in Kindergarten through 8th grade will take the FAST assessments. At Bancroft, students in **grades 1-5 will take the FAST aReading and aMath assessments**, and students in **Kindergarten are finishing up the FAST earlyReading assessment**. The aReading and aMath assessments are computerized tests that uniquely adapt to your child's level of learning based on your child's response and performance. earlyReading is administered individually to your child at a developmentally appropriate level. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing.

FAST assessments help us determine your child's instructional level and allow us to measure academic growth in the areas of math and literacy. The aReading and aMath assessments each take approximately 10-30 minutes and the earlyReading assessment takes approximately 4-16 minutes. Students in grades 1 and 2 will take aReading and aMath in the fall, winter, and spring. Due to MCA testing in the spring, students in grades 3-8 will take aReading and aMath in the fall and winter. Kindergarten students will take the earlyReading assessment in the fall and spring. Additional FAST assessments may be given depending on your child's academic need.

FAST stands for Formative Assessment System for Teachers, and is an assessment suite developed by the University of Minnesota. FAST has been adopted by schools in 37 states, including a statewide adoption in Iowa. In 2016-17, FAST users exceeded 14 million administrations. The FAST assessments are taking the place of the NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments that have been used in the past.

More information about FAST and the vendor, FastBridge, can be found at www.fastbridge.org. Information about other assessments given to students can be found at rea.mpls.k12.mn.us.

Partnering to help all kids learn, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children.

Sincerely,

Erin F. Glynn
Principal