

West Ridge Academy Family Guide to Student Assessments

At West Ridge Academy, assessments are used to support learning, guide instruction, and help every student grow in both character and academics. In alignment with our Pillars of Virtue—Compassion, Respect, Responsibility, Self-Control, Integrity, Gratitude, Community, and Perseverance—we approach assessment thoughtfully, ensuring students are supported, encouraged, and treated with care.

NWEA MAP – Math & Reading (Grades K–8)

Students take the NWEA MAP assessment at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. Each assessment takes approximately 30–60 minutes and adapts to a student’s individual skill level. Selected by West Ridge Academy, this assessment helps teachers monitor academic growth and set goals while encouraging students to show perseverance and confidence in their learning.

DIBELS – Reading (Grades K–3)

Students in kindergarten through third grade participate in DIBELS assessments in August, December, and May. These short assessments take about 10–30 minutes and help ensure students are developing strong early reading skills. Monitoring literacy progress in grades K–3 is required by Colorado’s READ Act. At West Ridge Academy, we approach these assessments with compassion and responsibility, ensuring young learners feel supported as they grow.

STAR Assessments (Grades K–8)

STAR assessments are administered monthly and typically take 15–30 minutes. These brief check-ins help teachers adjust instruction and provide timely support, reinforcing responsibility and perseverance as students work toward continuous improvement.

WIDA ACCESS – English Language Development Students whose first language is not English participate in the WIDA ACCESS assessment in January. Completed over multiple sessions (up to three hours total), this assessment measures growth in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. We honor our pillar of respect by recognizing and valuing students’ diverse languages and backgrounds while supporting their academic growth.

CMAS – State Assessments (Grades 3–8)

In April, students in grades 3–8 take the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS).

- English Language Arts: approximately 3–6 total hours
- Math: approximately 3–4 total hours
- Science: grades 5 and 8 only, approximately 3–4 total hours
- Social Studies: occasionally grades 4 and 7, approximately 1 hour, when selected by the state

CMAS results are used by the state to measure academic growth and school performance. Students are encouraged to demonstrate self-control, perseverance, and responsibility as they do their personal best.

What Families Should Know

Assessment times are approximate and may vary by student. Some assessments are selected locally by West Ridge Academy, while others are required by the state. In keeping with our pillars, assessments are administered in a way that prioritizes student well-being, respect for learning time, and a positive school experience. Our shared goal is to partner with families to support both strong character and academic excellence.

Assessment	Grades	When	Time Commitment	Purpose
NWEA MAP (Math & Reading)	All	August, December & May	30–60 Minutes per Test	WRA-Selected Assessment
DIBELS	K - 3	August, December & May	10–30 minutes	Monitor grade-level reading proficiency. State Accountability for Performance and Growth
STAR	K - 8	Monthly	20 - 30 minutes	Ongoing progress monitoring
WIDA Screener	English Learners	Upon Entry (Once)	30 - 45 Minutes	Placement of students who enroll in WRA whose first language was not English.
WIDA ACCESS	English Learners	January (Annually)	30 - 45 per Domain	English Language Growth
CMAS – ELA	3 - 8	April (Annually)	3–6 Total Hours	State Accountability for Performance and Growth
CMAS – Math	3 - 8	April (Annually)	3–4 Total Hours	State Accountability for Performance and Growth
CMAS – Science	5 & 9	April (Annually)	3–4 Total Hours	State Accountability for Performance
CMAS – Social Studies	4 & 7	April (Annually)	1 Hour	State Accountability for Performance