NEWPORT NEWS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Teaching & Learning

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Middle School Families,

Newport News Public Schools administers screening and diagnostic assessments to determine support needs and monitor student growth throughout the school year.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the assessments administered throughout the year in accordance with Virginia Code § 22.1-215.2. You will receive your child's score summaries at the end of each assessment window.

There is no preparation needed for any assessment listed below. Data collected will be used to determine your child's literacy needs and teachers will use it to inform instruction.

Virginia Language and Literacy Screening System 4-8 (VALLSS)

The Virginia Language and Literacy Screening System 4-8 (VALLSS) is used to identify strengths and weaknesses in specific literacy skills, including word recognition and language comprehension skills. It is designed to provide a better understanding of why students are experiencing difficulty with reading comprehension in grade-level text as indicated by their Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) performance. Most tasks on the assessments are administered one-on-one or in a small group setting and are spread across the testing window to allow instruction to continue. This assessment will be administered twice to students (fall and mid-year).

VALLSS Task	Purpose of VALLSS Task
Spelling	measure the child's ability to spell words with complex word patterns
Oral Reading Fluency	measure the number of words read accurately within one minute
Morphology	measure child's ability to understand how parts of words, like prefixes and suffixes, change the meaning of a word
Sentence Comprehension	measure the child's ability to integrate knowledge of vocabulary and sentence structure to comprehend complex sentences

Lexia Power Up! Auto Placement

Students who have qualified for placement in SOL Prep will take the auto placement assessment in Power Up! This is a series of activities that place them at the appropriate instructional level in each of the three literacy strands: Word Study, Grammar, and Comprehension.

Thank you for your support,

The NNPS Department of Teaching and Learning