

# Testing at Epiphany

Each year, we accept new students via lottery from a pool of applicants who have not been tested beforehand. Once accepted, students take a battery of tests, including the *Quality Reading Inventory (QRI)*, *QUIC Math*, and the *Stanford 10*. Since we provide two (and in some cases three) levels of instruction in reading, writing and math, these tests help us to determine the best academic placement for each student.

## What is the QUIC Math test?

The *QUIC Math* test is a multiple choice test used to determine the functional level of a student's competency in mathematics. Since we typically know little about any given student's proficiency in mathematics, this test guides us to the appropriate level of math class; however, while it is an ideal test for this purpose, we used it for nothing but placement.

The test is administered in sections, with each set up as a block representing a grade level; once the test information gets too difficult, the student stops the exam.

The results are based on a normative score that relates directly to the appropriate grade level placement (e.g., ????)

**The average score for the  
Class of 2013 is 4.5**

## What is the QRI?

The Qualitative Reading Inventory (QRI) is an individually administered informal reading inventory (IRI) which provides information on students' ability to decode words (accuracy) and comprehend text.

In the test, students are given passages to read based on a starting point determined by the student's familiarity with words on a list provided. A trained administrator will first assess prior knowledge with a prediction exercise, recording all miscues as student reads the passage orally, and once the student retells the story without looking back, the administrator ends the test with a series of comprehension questions. In order to establish the student's highest instructional level, reading behaviors, and strategies, the administrator will repeat this process with a new passage until it becomes too difficult for the student. This information is used to place the student in the appropriate class and to determine if any additional remedial services will be required. The test can be readministered if we need an additional measure of a student's progress.

**The average score for the  
Class of 2013 is 4.8**

## Epiphany Benchmarks

Every March, we administer our first round of academic benchmark exams. The benchmarks represent the minimum skills that each student must demonstrate in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Students who fail to meet benchmarks will either be retained or placed on an Individual Education Plan (IEP), as determined by the faculty. Students may retake sections they have failed, and teachers will work with students, or provide additional tutoring if needed, in order to help them pass. Throughout the school year, social and behavioral benchmarks are assessed through teacher observation and internal documentation of daily behavior.

In my opinion, these exams are critical to our ability to assess if a student is learning what is expected as established by our curriculum. In addition, as they are an indicator of the importance we set on educating the whole child, these social benchmarks set us apart from other schools.

The following are the benchmarks for each grade.

## **READING BENCHMARKS**

### **5th Grade**

Achieve reading progress based on fall assessment  
Articulate word attack strategies  
Identify the most important point in a story  
Make text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections  
Predict what will happen next in a text and generate questions  
Master a set of grade level vocabulary words  
Retell a story or process in chronological order

### **6th Grade**

Achieve reading progress based on fall assessment  
Read with fluency and intonation  
Demonstrate comprehension of major plot points in a text  
Identify the title, subject, and key facts in a text  
Distinguish between fact and opinion  
Answer independently reading comprehension questions from fiction and non-fiction texts  
Outline and paraphrase two assigned pages of fiction or non-fiction text  
Master a set of grade level vocabulary

### **7th Grade**

Achieve reading progress based on fall assessment  
Define literary terms: plot, character, setting, conflict, climax, resolution  
Outline and summarize four pages of fiction and non-fiction text  
Define vocabulary using context clues  
Compare and contrast different texts on the same subject matter  
Identify cause and effect  
Master a set of grade level vocabulary

### **8th Grade**

Achieve reading progress based on fall assessment  
Engage in literary analysis using literary terms  
Discuss character development and motivation in fiction  
Recognize the importance of historical setting on character and plot development  
Evaluate and present the strength of an argument  
Master a set of grade level vocabulary

## **WRITING BENCHMARKS**

### **5th Grade**

Write complete sentences  
Echo part of a question in the answer.  
Identify the subject and verb in a sentence  
Be familiar with the eight parts of speech

### **6th Grade**

Identify and write an effective topic sentence  
Define the 4 modes of writing: narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive  
Write 5-10 sentence paragraphs from an outline  
Revise teacher edited paragraphs  
Label the eight parts of speech

### **7th Grade**

Outline and compose 4-paragraph essays within the 4 modes: narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive  
Write effective thesis statements  
Make teacher-guided revisions

### **8th Grade**

Write well-structured 5-paragraph narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive essays  
Determine point of view and audience  
Write reports using parenthetical references

## **MATH BENCHMARKS**

### **5th Grade**

Master place value concepts  
Demonstrate mastery of basic math facts  
Demonstrate instant recall of times tables through twelve  
Exhibit computational mastery of whole number operations  
Display mastery of decimal operations  
Solve one-step word problems  
Achieve math progress as measured by the NWEA Math Assessments

### **6th Grade**

Master all decimal operations  
Master fraction operations  
Solve two-step word problems  
Use graphs  
Demonstrate ability to work with percentages and exponents  
Decipher and decode patterns  
Work with simple geometry  
Achieve math progress as measured by the NWEA Math Assessments

### **7th Grade**

Demonstrate mastery of operations involving fractions and percents  
Solve 2-step problems involving fractions, decimals and percents  
Classify Polygons and Angles  
Solve problems by applying basic geometric formulas  
Achieve math progress as measured by the NWEA Math Assessments

### **8th Grade**

Demonstrate mastery of integer rules  
Demonstrate ability to solve integers operations  
Problem solve using multiple steps and concepts  
Use geometric formulas to find area and circumference  
Solve one-step equations with variables  
Solve proportions  
Demonstrate ability to calculate probability  
Achieve math progress as measured by the NWEA Math Assessments

## **SOCIAL STUDIES BENCHMARKS**

### **5th Grade**

Acquire basic map skills  
Identify continents, oceans, and major world features  
Differentiate between city, state, country and continent  
Label 35 states and their capitals on an outline map of the U.S.  
Identify the states that make up each U.S. region  
Explain why and how Precipitation and Climate Maps are used  
Explain the difference between a Political and Physical Map  
Master a set of assigned social studies terms

### **6th Grade**

Explain timelines  
Place dates on a timeline in chronological order  
Apply more advanced map skills – latitude, longitude, plot points  
Create an ancient civilization timeline  
Describe ancient civilization development: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome  
Discuss how geography effects history  
Determine cause and effect  
Compare and contrast events  
Explain how farming led to the growth of early cities  
Identify the five elements of civilization  
Master a set of assigned social studies terms

### **7th Grade**

Articulate the characteristics of imperial and colonial systems  
Identify 50 African countries  
Trace the impacts of major events in early American history  
Explain the founding of the United States  
Master a set of assigned social studies terms

### **8th Grade**

Label the countries of the Americas and Europe  
Label the 50 states and capitals  
Read multiple pages of textbook, self-checking for understanding  
Describe United States federal system of government

Explain federal system workings in current events  
Describe trends of exploitation, protest, and reform in U.S. history  
Master a set of assigned social studies terms

## **SCIENCE BENCHMARKS**

### **5th Grade**

Record an observation for use with scientific method and inquiry  
List the steps of the scientific method  
Recognize and use lab safety procedures  
Identify parts of the microscope  
Demonstrate proper use and care of microscopes  
Develop a basic understanding of matter and its characteristics  
Identify the major components of our solar system  
Recognize the major parts of the plant and describe the function of each part  
Identify the earth's biomes  
Master a set of basic science vocabulary terms  
Demonstrate proficiency in answering basic non-fiction, science-related questions from the text and be able to cite supporting evidence

### **6th Grade**

Define scientific method  
Create a hypothesis for use with scientific method and inquiry  
Identify cause and effect of various catastrophic events  
Demonstrate an understanding of earth's atmosphere and global climate  
Classify earth's rocks and minerals  
Recognize major ocean features, including ocean floor, composition of ocean water, and life zones  
Use lab equipment properly  
Read and follow written lab procedures  
Master a set of basic science vocabulary terms  
Demonstrate proficiency in outlining and summarizing a science text

### **7th Grade**

Demonstrate understanding of the scientific method for research  
Identify scientific categories of classification  
List the parts and functions of the microscope  
Identify the needs and functions that define life  
Recognize cell parts and demonstrate an understanding of their functions  
Label and explain the functions of most systems of the human body  
Identify the difference between invertebrates and vertebrates highlighting the major characteristics and changes in the system  
Develop an understanding of organisms in the plant and animal kingdoms  
Recognize earth's biomes and ecosystems and where food comes from  
Master a set of basic science vocabulary terms  
Demonstrate proficiency in writing multi-paragraph science reports and answering open response questions

### **8th Grade**

Master usage of the scientific method and lab skills  
Identify and categorize matter  
Understand the characteristics of liquids, solids, and gases and changes in state  
Develop a basic understanding of chemical bonds, compounds, and reactions  
Identify the differences between acids and bases  
Identify usages of energy  
Develop a basic understanding of work, forces and machines  
Master a set of basic science vocabulary terms  
Independently research and conduct experiments for the science fair

## **MUSIC BENCHMARKS**

### **5th Grade**

Sing in unison with others  
Recognize the notes on the treble staff  
Follow basic rhythm patterns  
Demonstrate appropriate demeanor during rehearsal and performance

### **6th Grade**

Identify notes in bass cleft  
Follow more complex rhythm patterns  
Sing rounds and hold one's part  
Demonstrate appropriate demeanor during rehearsal and performance

### **7th Grade**

Sing in 2-part harmony  
Distinguish between soprano, alto, and bass parts  
Follow a hymnal or sheet music  
Demonstrate appropriate demeanor during rehearsal and performance

### **8th Grade**

Sing in 3-part harmony  
Respond to being conducted in terms of both pace and tone  
Demonstrate appropriate demeanor during rehearsal and performance  
Demonstrate leadership skills in rehearsal and performance

### **ART BENCHMARKS**

#### **5th Grade**

Create work from observation  
Work with basic art materials  
Explore the Elements of Art  
Develop an appreciation for others' artwork  
Discover art through nature  
Understand and explore workings of art room and supplies  
Demonstrate care and respect for supplies, room, peers and teacher  
Participate in class discussions, projects and clean-up procedures

#### **6th Grade**

Distinguish Elements of Art and Principles of Design  
Create expressive art based on emotion and self  
Critique works of art – formalism, emotionalism and realism  
Tell a story through art  
Experiment with a variety of artist's materials  
Understand and explore workings of the art room  
Demonstrate care of supplies, materials and art room

#### **7th Grade**

Experiment with a variety of materials  
Create depth using 1 and 2 point perspective  
Establish visual diaries of images  
Compare drawing skills and techniques  
Critique artwork using formal terms  
Understand the role of art in history & culture  
Demonstrate comprehension of all workings of the art room

#### **8th Grade**

Understand Elements of Art and the Principles of Design  
Develop fluency with most artist's materials  
Keep visual diaries of images  
Explore the characteristics of Realistic and Abstract art  
Compile a portfolio of finished work  
Take risks in their art making  
Demonstrate fluency in the workings of the art room  
Explore ideas and take steps to make them a reality

### **SOCIAL BENCHMARKS**

#### **5th Grade**

Demonstrate developing sense of self-discipline and appropriate personal boundaries  
Show respect for one's own and others' property  
Take responsibility for one's own actions  
Demonstrate listening skills - eyes, ears, mind on speaker  
Develop organizational skills as reflected by state of notebook, cubby, workspace  
Produces neat and legible work  
Produce timely homework  
Memorizes and recites poem at all-school assembly  
Demonstrates respect for self, peers and adults

#### **6th Grade**

Care independently for personal and others' property  
Demonstrate empathy  
Respond constructively to the consequences of one's actions  
Take responsibility for learning by asking questions for clarification  
Demonstrates ability to remain on task  
Participate effectively in class discussions and activities  
Produce timely, accurate homework reflecting best effort  
Demonstrates respect for self, peers and adults

#### **7th Grade**

Show understanding of the value of money, and the work required to earn it  
Develop a strong understanding of the elements of sustaining community  
Demonstrate readiness to lead by example throughout school day  
Produce thoughtful, high quality work on a consistent basis  
Employs problem solving skills to tackle complex tasks  
Implements multiple strategies to study for tests

Demonstrates respect for self, peers and adults

**8th Grade**

Participate in community service projects

Promote and maintain community spirit

Demonstrate readiness to lead by example throughout school day

Meet all-school public speaking requirement

Demonstrate ability to apply critical thinking skills

Answer higher level questions

Demonstrates respect for self, peers and adults

Eighth grade students who are not able to fulfill these social benchmarks may be retained or given a Certificate of Attendance in lieu of a Graduation diploma.

### **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) - Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)**

This is a new test that we began about two years ago in a cohort with other NativityMiguel schools. We will take this test twice each school year. The tests are state-aligned computerized adaptive tests that measure a student's instructional level and measure growth over time. MAP tests, in particular, provide useful information about where a student is learning. Because the tests align to the content and structure of state standards, the information teachers receive directly relates to the classroom experience and can be used by teachers to direct instruction. Teachers are able to retrieve test data the day after the exams are administered. We are still in our probationary phase with this test as we examine the results and test format in order to determine if this best fits our current needs.

### **The Stanford 10**

This achievement test is a multiple-choice nationally standardized assessment of student knowledge that was developed based on national and state standards of learning. The purpose of the *Stanford 10* is to provide our teachers with information that will assist them in evaluating the academic strengths and weaknesses of our students. This is a norm-referenced test, meaning that a student's score is compared with thousands of other students who take the test at the same time of year. Although we are preparing students to take these exams by incorporating similar types of questions into the different classes across the curriculum, our curriculum is not tailored to these exams.

The *Stanford 10* is administered when students in September of their 5th grade year and then every year in May. Students are required to take the Reading, Mathematics, and Language Tests. We also administer the Science section to our 8th graders.

Teachers are able to use the tests to determine individual weaknesses and strengths. Each teacher has access to the online test results in order to look at individual students and how a class has performed

When reporting the scores we are providing the Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) and the Grade Equivalent.

#### *Normal Curve Equivalent*

The Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) is a standard score with a known mean and standard deviation, such that NCE scores of 1, 50 and 99 correspond to percentile ranks of 1, 50 and 99 respectively. Normal Curve Equivalents were developed as a way of reporting achievement for the evaluation of funded programs.

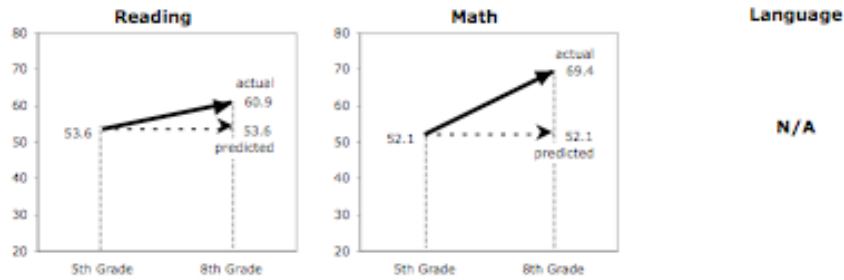
#### *Grade Equivalent*

A grade equivalent is a score that represents the average performance of a student tested in a given month of the school year. The grade equivalent scale ranges from K.0 (beginning Kindergarten) to 12.9 with scores above 12.9 designated as PHS (post high school). The numeral to the left of the decimal point refers to the grade for which the score is typical, and the numeral to the right of the decimal point represents one tenth of the school year, or one school month. Grade equivalents are used most effectively in comparing students' performance with a national sample across grades, levels, and forms of a test.

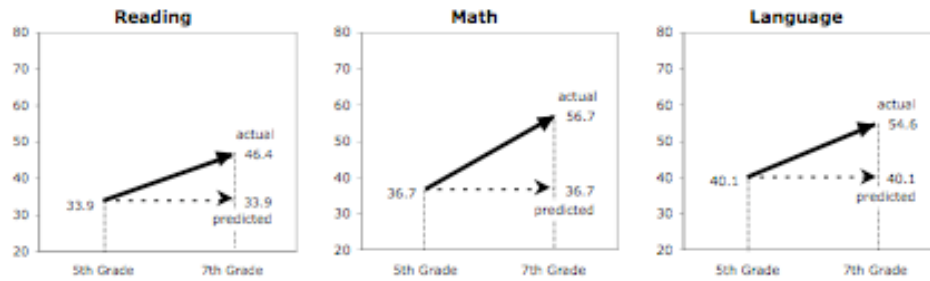
### Mean Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) Test Scores

Mean Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) scores are used to evaluate achievement gains by a cohort of students (class) as they advance grade levels. NCE scores are predicted to remain the same for each class of students over time, while an increase in NCE scores (actual scores shown below) indicate academic growth that is above and beyond that of elementary students across the nation.

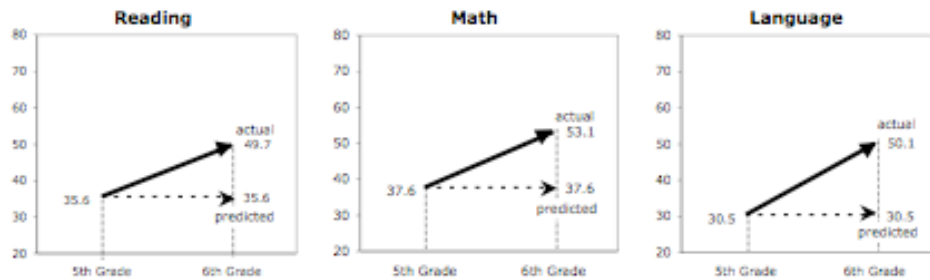
#### Class of 2009



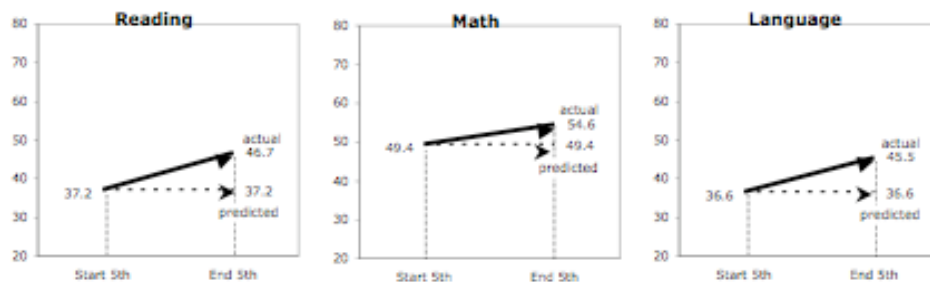
#### Class of 2010



#### Class of 2011

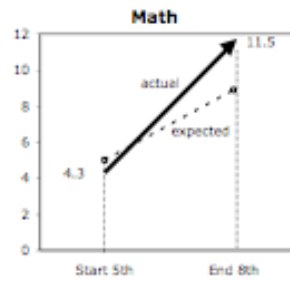
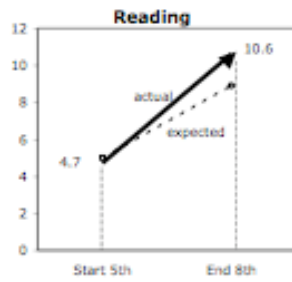


#### Class of 2012



## Mean Grade Equivalent (GE) Test Scores

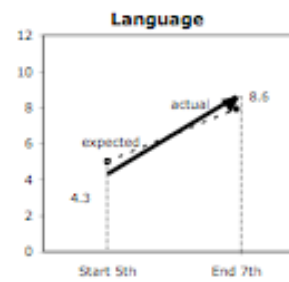
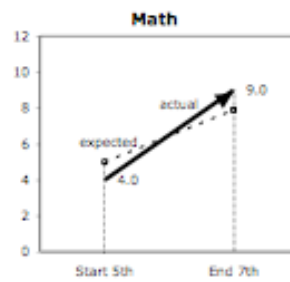
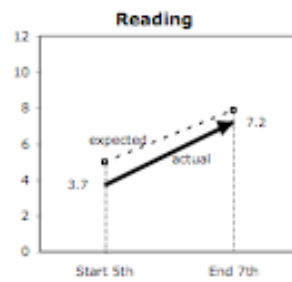
### Class of 2009



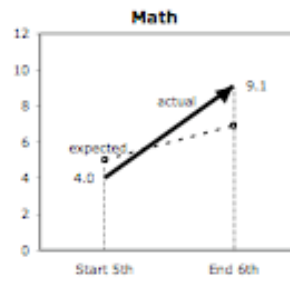
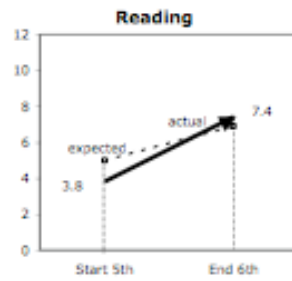
Language

N/A

### Class of 2010



### Class of 2011



### Class of 2012

