



### **Maria Montessori Academy Assessment Philosophy**

Determining what a student knows or does not know is a vital cornerstone in individualizing learning experiences. Quality assessments must incorporate a variety of methods in order to do service to the whole child.

Maria Montessori Academy supports the following approaches to student assessment:

- The purpose of assessment is to individualize and improve the quality of a student’s learning environment.
- The daily interactions a teacher has with a child, work that they produce in the classroom, their ability to articulate a concept verbally or in written form, cooperative learning experiences, presentations, and projects are all important assessment components.
- The teacher’s observations are at the hub of learning, but as humans, they also bring some bias to the process. Assessments that have been standardized allow for a fresh perspective on student growth and achievement.
- Standardized assessments are not perfect and are not used as the only measure of a student’s knowledge/progress. They will never be used as the only means of determining a student’s classroom grade or ability to pass on to the next grade level.
- MMA places high value on many non-cognitive skills such as intellectual curiosity, social intelligence, perseverance, time management, and growth mindset. These skills are not measured on standardized tests.
- Assessments help MMA to grow as a larger learning community—they help us to identify needs for new and additional materials, tailor professional development for teachers, and determine where to best invest school funding.
- Current standardized tests are evolving to better support student learning; as this happens it is not unusual for the benchmark scores to fluctuate slightly from one year to the next.
- When a student “opts out” of standardized testing, it places limitations on our ability to address individual student needs as well as school-wide improvement programs. One example of this might be a lack of data showing the need for further gifted/talented funding at our school.
- Taking tests is a practical life skill, which is, required for college entrance as well many professions. Doctors, lawyers, teachers, contractors, nurses, and cosmetologists (to name just a few) all must take tests in order to enter their professions. Standardized testing in school provides a valuable opportunity to practice taking tests in a low-stakes environment, better preparing our students for future assessments.

*Standardized assessment scores for students are available online. You may receive a more detailed report of your students’ progress by contacting your child’s teacher or school administration.*