

Testing & Reports

MAP testing

- MAP testing (computer-based, adaptive, nationally normed) assesses student progress.
- K-1 uses MAP Fluency (reading).
- Grades 1-8 use MAP Growth (reading, math, language for middle school).
- Testing occurs three times yearly (Aug/Sept, Dec, May).
- Helios uses MAP scores with classroom observations to understand student needs.
- Testing is in homerooms, not timed.
- Family Report give a concise overview
- Student Progress Report give a detailed history
- When students reach the test's difficulty limit, they'll move to the next level test
- You can find more general information about the MAP test here in the Family Toolkit webpage [here](#).

When and were is it done? ▼

How does Helios use MAP scores to make decisions about academic placement? ▼

What kinds of reports are generated? ▼

How do I access my child's MAP reports? ▼

What kinds of reports are generated? ▼

Internal Progress Report

This has the same format for all students, and describes students' SEL growth in our Helios Learner Outcomes. It is intended to help spur discussions between parents and teachers about a student's personal development, and is not intended for outside schools to read. While the marks and report create a written snapshot of a child at the end of December, they are not the full story on their own. More detail may come out in discussions in the conference as you partner with the teachers for your child's growth.

What are the internal progress reports based on? ▼

What do these Helios Learner Outcomes (HLOs) include? ▼

How do I interpret the internal report? ▼

What about the areas that are left blank, or other feedback/commentary? ▼

External Progress Report

This report describes the program each student is enrolled in, and their progress in mastering the specific skills and knowledge taught in each class. This is done in a standards-based or competency style. The External report has different formats for Lower School (K-4) and Middle School (5-8).

How are the skills and knowledge targets measured? ▼

Does the external report offer commentary on my student? ▼

What does the external report include? ▼

External Report Components

Math

Math is taught in leveled groups, and assessed against the targets for that particular level. For instance, every student in Level 5 math will have Level 5 targets on their report, whether they are in first grade or fifth.

Theme/Expedition

Science and Humanities are taught and assessed through the Theme or Expedition. A relatively short list of specific targets is addressed for the entire homeroom. These are weighted toward skills rather than content knowledge, and are based on standards near the students' grade level.

Electives and Co-Curricular Classes

Students spend less time per week in each elective or co-curricular class than in their academic classes and homerooms. These are described in the report, but may or may not have individual narratives or assessments.

Middle School Language Arts

Language Arts skills are assessed primarily in Humanities, but also in Science, Passion Projects, Lit Clubs, and any other classes where a student reads and writes.

LS Report Components:

Math (Leveled group)

Theme/Expedition:

Science

Humanities

Electives and Co-Curricular Classes:

PE, I-Lab, Library

Explorations

Art, Garden (K only)

Literacy:

Foundational Skills

Reading Comprehension

Written Expression

Literacy (Leveled group)

Lit Club/Circle (for some)

MS Report Components:

Language Arts:

Grade-level skills

Passion Projects

Math (Leveled group)

Theme/Expedition:

Science

Humanities

Electives and Nonacademic Classes:

PE, I-Lab, Library

Explorations

Lower School Literacy

The most complex assessment reporting we do at Helios is for Lower School Literacy. Because we have such a wide range of reading levels and profiles in every group, teachers assess their homeroom students against a K-8 "continuum" of skills, and offer lessons and project options to help each student grow to the next level over the course of the year.

Reading Format

The two-column section at the beginning of your progress report is a readout of this continuum. You will see skills from slightly below to far above grade level.

Demonstrating Mastery

A checked box indicates mastery of the skill; an open box indicates that they are currently working on this skill at school. No mark, or a period, indicates that this is not a skill they are working on yet, either because they are not ready for it or because their theme and Literacy projects have not called for it yet.

Informing Assessment

Everything a student does that interacts with text, comprehension, or written expression may be reflected on these continuums - theme work, literacy group work, discussions or presentations, and more. In this section, the "I" column indicates preassessment at the start of the year. Some skills may not have been preassessed, so some portions of this column may be blank.

Components of Literacy Report

Foundational Skills

Foundational Skills are a continuum of discrete skills that can be learned individually. Most of them are basic skills relating to text: knowing all of the letters of the alphabet, using quotation marks correctly, or fluent typing.

Reading Comprehension

Reading Comprehension does not focus on decoding words, but on making meaning of passages and books of various types; this can include making meaning of audiobooks or read-alouds, especially at the lower levels.

Written Expression

Written Expression, likewise, does not refer to writing letters with a pencil. The focus here is on the skilled expression of nuanced ideas; young students are expected to express themselves by dictating or drawing their work.

Leveled Literacy

"Literacy" refers to the Leveled Literacy Groups that students work in; like in math, these targets are specific to the grade level that the group is working at.

Lit Clubs

Finally, as students are ready, they join Lit Clubs or Lit Circles, where they read and discuss novels. Lit Clubs do not have separate targets - they contribute to the continuums and Literacy targets - but if your child was in a Lit Club, it will be described in the narrative.