



# Parent's Guide to STAR™ Assessments

Questions and Answers



**STAR**™  
Assessments

Your child will be taking a STAR assessment during this school year. This guide will explain what a STAR assessment is. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or visit the STAR website at [www.renaissance.com/Products/Star-Assessments](http://www.renaissance.com/Products/Star-Assessments).

## What are STAR assessments?

Renaissance Learning™ pioneered computer-adaptive testing in the classroom in 1996 with the introduction of STAR Reading™, and has been improving upon it ever since. As a result, we offer a line of testing products that all function the same, are all built with the same high level of measurement accuracy, and all share the same design principles.



**STAR Reading™** is an assessment of reading comprehension and skills for independent readers through grade 12. STAR Reading tracks development in five domains:

- Word Knowledge and Skills
- Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning
- Analyzing Literary Text
- Understanding Author's Craft
- Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text



**STAR Math™** is an assessment of math achievement for students in grades 1–12. STAR Math tracks development in four domains:

- Numbers and Operations
  - Algebra
  - Geometry and Measurement
  - Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability
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## What are computer-adaptive tests?

All STAR assessments are computer-adaptive tests (CATs). Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased. CATs save testing time and spare your child the frustration of items that are too difficult and the boredom of items that are too easy.

## How long does it take to complete a STAR assessment?

STAR tests are designed to be as efficient as possible. On average, students will complete the STAR Math test in about 20 minutes, the STAR Reading test in about 15 minutes. However, some students may require more time.

## What are STAR assessments used for?

The STAR assessments are often used to screen students for their reading and math achievement levels. STAR Reading and STAR Math™ assessments help determine reading and math achievement levels in order to place students into the Accelerated Reader™ and Accelerated Math™ programs.

STAR™ assessments can also be used to monitor student growth throughout the year, to estimate students' understanding of state standards, and predict students' performance on the state test. In addition, STAR can help teachers determine appropriate instructional levels and skills that students are ready to learn.

## What kind of score does my child get?

For every STAR assessment, your child receives a **scaled score (SS)**, which is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct answers. Scaled scores are useful for comparing your child's performance over time and across grades. STAR Reading and STAR Math scaled scores range from 0–1400.

STAR offers educators a variety of scores and reports. Some STAR scores compare your child's performance to a specific criteria or to a standard (criterion-referenced scores). STAR reports also include scores which compare your child's performance to other students who have taken the same test (norm-referenced scores). The criterion- and norm-referenced scores are based on the scaled score.

Please see the sample Parent Reports on the following pages for examples of some of the scores and score definitions.

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## **How can I help my child prepare for a STAR assessment?**

The teacher who gives the test uses pre-test instructions to explain the test to your child. It is important for you to encourage your child to try to do his or her best on the assessment. Since STAR is a general measure of student ability in math or reading, students perform best on the assessment in the same way they perform best in school—when they have had plenty of rest, attend school regularly, and have eaten.

## **How will I know how my child is doing?**

All reports will be shared via Engage once each class has completed their tests. This is normally within 2 weeks of the benchmark tests start date.

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# STAR READING

## Parent Report Explained

This report summarizes your child’s scores on the test. As with any test, many factors can affect a student’s scores. It is important to understand that these test scores provide only one picture of how your child is doing in school.

GE	PR	PR Range	Below Average	Average 50	Above Average	IRL	ZPD	ZPD 2000
3.1	29	22-35		—		3.2	2.6-3.7	361-561

**National Norm Scores:**

**Grade Equivalent (GE): 3.1**

Grade Equivalent scores range from 0.0 to 12.9+. A GE score shows how your child’s test performance compares with that of other students nationally.

**Percentile Rank (PR): 29**

The Percentile Rank score compares your child’s test performance with that of other students nationally in the same grade. With a PR of 29, the student reads at a level greater than 29% of other students nationally in the same grade. This score is average. The PR Range indicates that, if this student had taken the STAR Reading test numerous times, most of his scores would likely have fallen between 22 and 35.

**Instructional Reading Level (IRL): 3.2**

The Instructional Reading Level (IRL) is the grade level at which the student is at least 80% proficient at recognizing words and comprehending reading material. The student achieved an IRL score of 3.2. This means that he is at least 80% proficient at reading third grade words and books.

**Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD): 2.6-3.7**

The Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) is the reading level range from which the student should be selecting books for optimal growth in reading. It spans reading levels that are appropriately challenging for reading practice. This range is approximate. Success at any reading level depends on your child’s interest and prior knowledge of a book’s content.

The Students ZPD 2000 is 361-561. The ZPD 2000 score is the ZPD converted to a 2000-point scale.

UCIS/ACIS will be using these STAR Reading test scores to help your child further develop their reading skills through the selection of books for reading practice at school. Your child should also practice silent reading every day, continue reading aloud and with others, and practice reading more challenging books.

# Student Diagnostic Report

## Enterprise Test

Printed Wednesday, August 25, 2021 9:21:03 AM

School: Unity Concord International School

Test Date: August 9, 2021 11:22 AM

Test Time: 25 minutes 57 seconds

### Report Options

Use Trend Score: Use most recent test

## Tester G10, Tester G10

ID: Tester G10

Grade: 10

School Benchmark - Grade 10



### STAR Reading Scores

 SS: 1034 (Scaled Score)   ■ At/Above Benchmark  
 Lexile® Measure: 1285L

Tester G10's Scaled Score is based on the difficulty of questions and the number of correct responses. The Lexile® measure is a scaled score converted to the equivalent Lexile measure.

PR: 43 (Percentile Rank)

Tester G10 scored greater than 43% of students nationally in the same grade.

GE: 9.2 (Grade Equivalent)

Tester G10's test performance is comparable to that of an average ninth grader after the second month of the school year.

IRL: 8.9 (Instructional Reading Level)

Tester G10 would be best served by instructional materials prepared at the eighth grade level.

### Domain Scores

#### Comprehension

 Vocabulary: 82  
 Discussion Skills: 82  
 Understanding and Interpreting Texts: 80  
 Engaging and Responding to Texts: 84

Domain scores, ranging from 0-100, estimate Tester G10's percent of mastery on skills in each domain at a tenth grade level.

### Reading Recommendation

ZPD: 4.6-9.2 (Zone of Proximal Development)

Lexile® Range: 1185L-1335L

 Tester G10's ZPD identifies books at the right level to provide optimal reading challenge without frustration. Enter Tester G10's ZPD in [www.ARBookFind.com](http://www.ARBookFind.com) to find appropriate books.

 Lexile® range spans 100L below to 50L above an individual's Lexile measure, and is the optimal range for successful reading practice. A Lexile Measure *below* BR400L is reported for progress monitoring purposes only. A score below BR400L should not be used to match readers with text, therefore a Lexile range will not be reported.

# STAR MATH

## Parent Report Explained

The Student has taken a STAR Math computer-adaptive math test. This report summarizes the students scores on the test. As with any test, many factors can affect a student's scores. It is important to understand that these test scores provide only one picture of how your child is doing in school.

SS	GE	PR	PR Range	Below Average	Average 50	Above Average	NCE
563	3.3	29	23-33		—		38.3

### National Norm Scores

#### Grade Equivalent (GE): 3.3

Grade Equivalent scores range from 0.0 to 12.9+. A GE score shows how your child's test performance compares with that of other students nationally. Based on the national norms, the student's math skills are at a level equal to that of a typical third grader after the third month of the school year.

#### Percentile Rank (PR): 16

The Percentile Rank score compares your child's test performance with that of other students nationally in the same grade. With a PR of 29, the student's math skills are greater than 29% of students nationally in the same grade. This score is average. The PR Range indicates that, if this student had taken the STAR Math test numerous times, most of his scores would likely have fallen between 23 and 33.

UCIS/ACIS will be using these STAR Math test scores to help your child further develop his math skills through the selection of materials for math practice at school. At home, you can help your child develop his math skills as well. At this stage, he needs to work with numbers in the thousands and practice multiplying and dividing basic facts.

# Student Diagnostic Report

## Enterprise Test

Printed Wednesday, August 25, 2021 9:24:06 AM

School: Unity Concord International School

Test Date: August 10, 2021 11:19 AM

Test Time: 41 minutes 47 seconds

### Report Options

Use Trend Score: Use most recent test

## Tester 9, Tester 9

ID: Tester 9

Grade: 9

School Benchmark - Grade 9



■ Urgent Intervention ■ Intervention ■ On Watch ■ At/Above Benchmark

### STAR Math Scores

SS: 901 (Scaled Score)	■ At/Above Benchmark	Tester 9's Scaled Score is based on the difficulty of questions and the number of correct responses.
PR: 84 (Percentile Rank)		Tester 9 scored greater than 84% of students nationally in the same grade.
GE: >12 (Grade Equivalent)		Tester 9's test performance is better than that of an average twelfth grader after the start of the school year.

### Domain Scores

<b>Algebra</b> Ratio, proportion and rates of change: 62 Algebra: 59 <b>Geometry</b> Geometry: 59 <b>Numbers and Operations</b> Number - arithmetic operations: 76	Domain scores, ranging from 0-100, estimate Tester 9's percent of mastery on skills in each domain at a ninth grade level.
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### Math Recommendation

Accelerated Math™ Library: Algebra 2	If you are using the Accelerated Math™ management software system with Tester 9, assign the Algebra 2 library. This library should provide a good match for his abilities.
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