Why are the assessments called *Formative Mid-Year Assessments*?

The assessments are called *Formative Assessments* as they are geared towards systematically gathering evidence of student learning. The goal is to use the data from the assessments to support decisions in the classroom. This will result in improvements made in students’ learning and achievement for the remainder of the school year. Formative assessment is a natural part of the teaching and learning process as it is one of the instructional tools that teachers use to inform classroom instruction.

How were the assessments developed?

The assessment for each grade level was developed by teachers from that grade level with the guidance and support of district administrators. The teachers went through the process of reviewing the Learning Standards and pacing charts for their grade level. The teachers then used a variety of sources, which included instructional resources, state released items, and previously used teacher-developed assessments, to develop the formative assessment. The assessments were then reviewed and revised after discussion with other teachers.

Will parents receive information or the results about their children?

The results from the assessments will not be sent home because the purpose is to gather data to inform classroom instruction and decisions. However, parents may contact their child’s teacher for a meeting to review their child’s performance and hear from the teacher where their child is in relation to grade level expectations.

How will the assessments affect student learning and achievement?

The assessments will allow teachers to gather evidence of what their students know and where they are in relation to end of year grade level expectations. Teachers will then be able to make instructional adjustments to better meet the needs of their students. The data will provide additional information about which students need to be challenged, which students need additional support, and which standards need more coverage or presentation in a different way.
Mid-Year Formative Assessments Questions and Answers

Were parents notified of these assessments?

No decision was made whether or not to notify parents about the assessments. However, it was felt that since students were not required to study, would not be graded or penalized, parent notification was not absolutely needed. Our teachers administer various assessments to gather evidence of student learning throughout the year that do not require parent notification. One such assessment is the “On Demand Writing” which is done in grades K-5. The current assessment serves a similar purpose and was treated similarly.

Who will see the results of the Formative Assessments?

Each teacher will receive the result of their students/class. They will receive data analysis sheets that pinpoint areas of weakness and strength. They will then use this information to help students as they plan future lessons.