

UMA
Parent and Guardian Student Achievement

Dear Parents or Guardians:

At the end of the last school year, your student took Minnesota Standardized-based tests: MCA & MAP (NWEA) in Reading, Math, & Science (MCA Only). This year-end test is part of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments system and is aligned with Minnesota's academic standards, which are the things that are expected from students to know and be able to do. The goal of the standards is to have proficient students graduate ready for college or a career.

These tests in Reading, mathematics, and science give UMA educators a way to see how well students can write, think critically, and solve problems, which are some of the skills that are needed to succeed in college and a 21st-century career.

Your student's score report shows his or her scores for Reading, mathematics, and science. It includes an overall score for each subject, and information about how well your student did in different skill areas. If your student took the tests in past years, you will also see past scores so you can look at their progress over time (those continuously in our district only).

We want to emphasize the importance of these tests regarding graduation. The new graduation guidelines, requires students to meet these standards in order to graduate from high school. Colleges will consider the MCAs as a basis for college readiness as of SY 2017-2018. If a student does not meet the MN standards of proficiency, they will be required to do a year of developmental courses in college.

At Ubah, the test results are just one way to look at how well our students are doing. We use the results to find areas where students need help in the next school year and assign college courses. If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please call the school office at [952-540-2942] to arrange a conference with your child's teacher, counsellor or Director/Admin.

Summary Resources to find out more about your student's performance:

PowerSchool: Parent Portal – you will need User Name & Password. The school will assist you with setting one up – including PS Mobile.

Understanding the Student Progress Report discussion will walk you through the different areas of the score report – see Counsellor or Admin.

Parent Guides to the Summative Assessments will show grades broken down by score level, so you can see grades obtained by your student.

Parent Responsibilities: Students to do all required homework at home (assignments, projects etc.) attend school daily - contact the school immediately in case of absence and provide reason for absence, sleep early to get enough rest and sleep. ***No hand-held Devices allowed in the school. Students provided Chrome Books in every class.***

If your student is in grade 10, s/he will take the Reading MCA in the spring and NWEA (MAP) in the fall and spring. Those in 11 grade will take the math MCA and NWEA (MAP) in the spring and fall respectively. MCA science is for those taking biology in 2017-18 school year. All this information is sent home, is on our website, and available during parent-teacher conferences (student status report).

Be informed that in 10th grade we offer an hour of math MCA preparation daily as an extra remediation math class. Students will have formative assessments such as homework, projects, and quizzes. We use the MCA as Summative Assessments for Reading, science, and mathematics (MAP, grade level letter grades, and a GPA of 2.5 is our baseline analytics) to show a student's readiness for college-level coursework. The call out on the right shows how student scores and performance levels line up to the different MCA statuses.

Students will receive a MCA level for Reading, math, and science separately, depending on their scores in those sections. University of MN and the Minnesota State Universities (MNSCU) will use these scores in the near future.

ACT: See the call out on the right!

MCA Score Levels

Exceeds the Standards—Students who score “Standard Exceeded” are considered *ready for college-level coursework*.

Meets the Standards—Students who score “Standard Met”. A student at this level of the MCA meets the skills of the Minnesota Academic Standards.

Partially Meets the Standards—Students who score “Standard Partially Met” are considered *not yet ready for college-level coursework* and will need *additional preparation* in the twelfth grade.

Does Not Meet the Standards—Students who score “Standard Not Met” are considered *not ready for college-level coursework*. They will need *substantial improvement* to demonstrate knowledge and skills needed for success in entry-level credit-bearing college coursework after high school.

NWEA (MAP)

After each MAP test, students receive a RIT score. Think of the score as a student's height. The score reflects the student's academic knowledge, skills, and abilities like inches reflect height.

The RIT (**Rasch Unit**) scale is a stable, equal-interval scale, like feet and inches. Equal-interval means that a change of 10 RIT points indicates the same thing regardless of whether a student is at the top, bottom, or middle of the scale, and a RIT score has the same meaning regardless of grade level or age of the student. Scores over time can be compared to tell how much growth a student has made, similar to measuring height with a ruler.

Reading: 171-180/181-190/191-200/201-210/211-220/221-230 and Above **230**

Math: 171-180/181-190/191-200/201-210/211-220/221-230/231-240/241-250 & Above **250**

ACT: Junior year – preparation & retake plan. State Average 21 point; UMA average 18 points. High scores start from 24 points.

We discourage **academic dishonesty** in any form or shape. Discourage your student from using others' work especially for homework. Parents make sure your students' do all assigned work at home.

Language use: We require our scholars (your children) to use appropriate and descent English and Somali languages in the school. Use of profanity is highly discouraged. It is important that all students are respectable in their use of language. Academic language and discourse is encouraged.

All **after school academic remediation** will start at **2:30 – 4:00pm**. Parents are required to pick up their child – **no transportation**. However, **after school activities** like sports and other functions – transportation will be provided to select bus stops in North and South Minneapolis. **Parent consent** (permission) is required for all after school remediation and activities. No student will be allowed in the campus without parent permission.

The last **Saturday of the Month** (during the school year), we will have parent-administrator meetings to inform you about the status of the school, which includes a forum to listen to your input, concerns, or reflection about the school and the learning & teaching of our scholars.

No Handheld Devices: AT UMA we do not allow cell phones, ipads, ipods, or any other handheld electronic devices (see student handbook).

For more information, please see our website:

http://www.ubahmedicalacademy.org/pages/Ubah_Medical_Academy and/or you can contact an administrator in the school (Director, Assistant Director or Counsellor).

Looking forward to a prosperous academic year!

Sincerely,

Administration