

Dear FP Parents,

This letter is to share some general information about the ERB tests, and the process that will follow. The FP students will be writing the ERB CTP tests from April 14-18. Most grades differ in the tests they write:

Pre-Kindergarten

N/A

Kindergarten

N/A

Grade 1

Auditory Comprehension

Reading comprehension

Word Analysis

Mathematics

Constructed Response – Math

Constructed Response – Reading

Grade 3

Verbal Reasoning

Auditory Comprehension

Reading comprehension

Writing Mechanics

Writing Concepts and Skills

Quantitative Reasoning

Mathematics, Part 1

Mathematics, Part 2

Constructed Response – Math

Constructed Response – Reading

Grade 2

Auditory Comprehension

Reading comprehension

Word Analysis

Writing Mechanics

Mathematics

Constructed Response – Math

Constructed Response – Reading

Grade 4

Verbal Reasoning

Vocabulary

Reading comprehension

Writing Mechanics

Writing Concepts and Skills

Quantitative Reasoning

Mathematics, Part 1

Mathematics, Part 2

Constructed Response – Math

Constructed Response – Reading

**What is the ERB?** The Educational Research Bureau (ERB) is a non-profit educational services organization offering assessments for both admission and achievement for independent and public schools for Pre K to grade 12.

**What is the CTP?** The Comprehensive Testing Program (CTP) is a challenging test designed to discriminate among students at the highest level. The objective of the assessment is to gain information that can contribute to the student's education.

**What does the CTP assess?** The *achievement tests* assess how well students are learning the curriculum. The *reasoning tests* assess language arts and mathematics skills that might not be obvious in day-to-day activities in the classroom. The *reasoning tests* are very good at showing underlying skill in handling higher-order thinking. They may also reveal that a student is not working up to his or her potential, if the *achievement test* scores are significantly lower than the *reasoning test scores* in an area.

**Why does the school use the CTP?** The school as a whole uses it to evaluate how well the curriculum is working. For individual students, it can be used to see whether they need special attention, enrichment, or different placement. For both curriculum and student evaluation, the test is a kind of ‘reality check’. It can be a useful tool in assessing the students, but because the use of the CTP test is relatively new to CDS, it will *not* be included when determining the report card grades.

The CTP is only one piece of the puzzle. Class work, homework, and teacher observations and assessments are all necessary. When it comes to student learning and achievement, more information is better.

Every year, information is gleaned about students in both *independent schools* and *public schools* who take the test. Our students and our school will be compared to these groups. Specifically, our school’s results will be included in the *independent schools* group.

Students grow and change; annual testing helps teachers and administrators keep track of that change over time. The test can assist in catching students’ needs as soon as possible, as well as pinpointing unknown strengths.

Following the testing, the results will be interpreted, and information will be shared with parents and students.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Kind Regards,

Mr. Hill