

All of our K-3 students at Nevis take the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) test every fall and spring. The exception to this is our third graders who take the MCA (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment) test in the spring.

As the K-3 Title 1 reading teacher, I look at all of the students' reading scores from the past spring. The majority of students are at or above their reading grade level. The good news is most of the students that did not score at grade level are somewhat close but need some extra help with their reading to get up to grade level. That's where Title 1 services can really help.

After giving the 1st -3rd grade classroom teachers a list of potential Title 1 candidates and their scores, the classroom teachers will ultimately let me know which students they would like to receive Title 1 services. They'll do this using the scores provided along with other individual assessments that they did throughout the first week of school. I then send home parental permission slips for Title 1 services and the process begins.



About 2 weeks into school, all students in grades K-3 will take the fall NWEA test. We (the classroom teachers and I) now have more data to use. Not surprisingly, the results are very similar to the spring scores. Nevertheless, it is more information to help determine that we are in fact giving Title 1 services to the students that need it. (Note: This is kindergarten's first time testing.)

Another component of these tests is that I can utilize the spreadsheet that shows the different strands that make up the overall score for each student test. For example, The NWEA breaks down each student's score into the following strands. They are:

1. Foundations/Vocabulary
2. Informational Text
3. Literature
4. Comprehension
5. Concepts of Print
6. Phonics
7. Phonological Awareness
8. Vocabulary and Word Structure
9. Writing

This information is very valuable to me as I can simply look and see which area(s) a student is struggling with and develop instruction towards that area(s) of deficiency.

In closing on this discussion of "Using Test Results," I think it's important to mention that at the end of the school year when the students take the spring tests again, I will look at the gains of each Title 1 student I served in order to evaluate myself. And yes, those spring scores will start the whole process over again in the fall. ☺

