



Dear DCPS Parent,

This year, your child will participate in DCPS' district-wide Unit Assessments (UA), formerly called the Paced Interim Assessments (PIAs). These assessments are important tools that help students practice what they've learned. The data from the assessments will allow teachers to determine what your child knows and what skills he or she has yet to master so they can customize instruction for your child. In DCPS, the UAs were designed for the Common Core Standards and include new, more creative test items like open-ended writing and hands-on online problems. These assessments will be administered to students in grades 2-8 and to students enrolled in Algebra I, Geometry, English I and English II. They will cover standards taught during the prior 6-8 week period of instruction. The UA is computer-based for grades 3 and up for both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. 2nd graders will take the assessment with paper and pencil. The score reports will show what knowledge and skills your child has attained and where we need to focus our class time and resources as a school.

Most Unit Assessments take an average of one hour and will be administered 4-5 times throughout the school year within the dates listed below.

Unit Assessment (UA)	Test Administration Window Note that within the month long window, your child will be testing only on their assigned day(s).
UA 1 Tests skills taught in Instructional Unit 1	September 29-October 31, 2014
UA 2 Tests skills taught in Instructional Unit 2	November 19-December 19, 2014
UA 3 Tests skills taught in Instructional Unit 3	February 2-27, 2015
UA 4 Tests skills taught in Instructional Unit 4 <i>*Optional based on school's decision.</i>	March 30-April 28, 2015
UA 5 Tests skills taught in Instructional Unit 4 & 5	May 4-June 12, 2015

We strongly encourage you to talk with your child's teacher about his or her overall achievement, including his or her performance on these assessments. By partnering with your child's teacher, you can determine activities and resources that you can use at home to continue to build your child's skills. At parent-teacher conferences, you can review the UA results with your child's teacher to gain a better understanding of your child's academic growth. If you have any questions regarding your child's performance or would like to hear suggestions on how you can support instruction at home, please feel free to contact your child's teacher. If you have specific questions about these assessments that you want answered by central office, you are welcome to contact Margot Locker at margot.locker@dc.gov.

Sincerely,


James Albright, Principal
Alice Deal Middle School