



# K-5 Assessment Days/ Family Connections

*Discussed March 12 study session. This will be for 2021-22.*

## What?

- All teachers will spend 30-45 minutes meeting with individual students to get to know them personally and their strengths and goals readers.
- They will get to know the student and make connections. They will complete a running record or grade level appropriate assessment to determine a student's instructional reading level, strengths as a reader, and goals for growth.
- Each student would get to book shop with free books from Scholastic Book Fair Points.
- Family connection day will be available with community and school supports in the lunchroom/gym. (PTO, bus, lunch, Community Ed, MAC, North Holmes, and other community resources)
- Families will have an opportunity to share information and goals for their child.

## When?

### Option 1

Aug. 23, 24, 2021- dates prior workshop week and K-12 students start school the day after Labor Day on Sept. 7 and elementary gets done 2 days early on June 7.

Aug. 23, 2021 11-7pm

Aug. 24, 2021 11-7pm

### Option 2

Sept. 7-8, 2021

Sept. 7- 11-7pm

Sept. 8- 8-4pm

The first day of school will be Sept. 9, 2021

	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
<b>Aug. 23-24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessments done before school starts</li><li>• Small group instruction can begin in Sept.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MAC typically closed 2 weeks before the start of school.</li><li>• School ends 2 days earlier in June families may not see this</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Interventions can start sooner.</li> <li>● Saves 2 days of elementary transportation</li> <li>● More time for evening slots.</li> <li>● Teachers could have time to reflect on data prior to the start of school.</li> </ul>	<p>as favorable as high school students may not be able to care for younger students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No time to train new staff</li> <li>● We would need to change new teacher workshops.</li> <li>● Calendar may need to be changed.</li> <li>● May be harder to get families to participate as they may have vacations.</li> <li>● Classrooms are not ready</li> </ul>
<b>Sept. 7-8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assessments done before school starts</li> <li>● Small group instruction can begin in Sept.</li> <li>● Interventions can start sooner.</li> <li>● Students end on the same day K-12</li> <li>● Aligns with K meetings and all elementary students will start on Sept. 9.</li> <li>● Saves money with 2 less days of elementary transportation</li> <li>● We can train staff in August for consistent administration of assessments.</li> <li>● Classrooms would be ready for the start of school.</li> <li>● Long-term sustainable option.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MAC could be open if we can get staffing for MAC families.</li> </ul>

## How?

- Families will sign up for students to have an optional 30-45 minute meeting with the teacher similar to conference sign up.
- If families cannot come, there will be a shortened open house and the personal connections will happen the first 2 weeks of school in the classroom.
- New students may have additional assessments with reading, math, EL, SPED teachers.

- MAC and/ or Community Ed could provide 3 hour classes to support families who may need child care. Scholarships could be granted for families who cannot financially support them.
- PTO could run card sharks and/or strategy games
- Open house can be re-envisioned and staggered with WW and OHA.

## Why?

This will also build an individual connection with student, teacher, and family.

Currently teachers are meeting with each student for 30-45 minutes to complete a running record and determine students reading levels, strengths and goals before conferences in Nov. Students are currently instructed by substitute teachers while classroom teachers complete these assessments. Classroom teachers also use WIN time and regular classroom instructional time to meet with every reader. Completing the assessments before school would maximize teaching students at their instructional reading levels in September without waiting until November. Research shows that substitute teachers are not as effective as regular classroom teachers so learning would be maximized and we would save money without needing subs.

Current Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teachers need to build routines for readers workshop and WIN so students can work independently.</li> <li>● Teachers assess all students reading levels using running records and CBM during readers workshop, WIN, and during the days when they have a sub in the classroom.</li> <li>● Assessments are completed by the end of October.</li> <li>● Small group Guided Reading instruction begins in Nov.</li> <li>● Intervention groups and WIN groups begin in Oct. or Nov.</li> <li>● Connections are made at open house and during the first 6 weeks of school.</li> </ul>
Assessment Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teachers need to build routines for readers workshop and WIN so students can work independently.</li> <li>● Teachers assess all students reading levels using running records and CBM before school starts..</li> <li>● Assessments are completed by mid September.</li> <li>● Small group Guided Reading instruction begins mid September.</li> <li>● Intervention groups and WIN groups begin earlier.</li> <li>● Stronger connections are formed with students during assessment day, open house, and during the first 6 weeks of school.</li> </ul>

## Other Information

We would still be in alignment of required school days because elementary does not require the same number of instructional hours as secondary.

This is aligned with Kindergarten meetings that have been in existence in the district.

This would allow community resources to be available for all families.

Other districts use this model including:

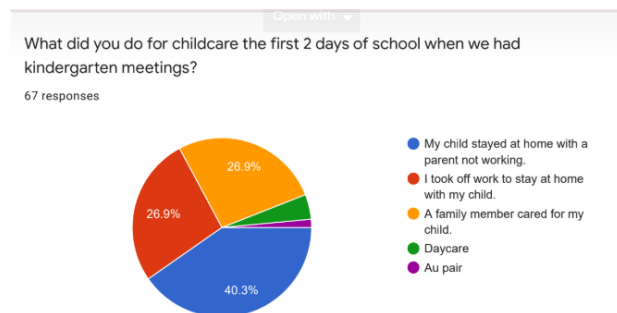
- [Rosemount Apple Valley ISD 196](#) 2 days in Aug.
- [South Washington County-](#) 2 days in Aug.
- [Stillwater](#) - 1 day Ready Set Go
- South St. Paul - Family Connections Day
- White Bear Lake - 1 day Sept.

## Support Needed

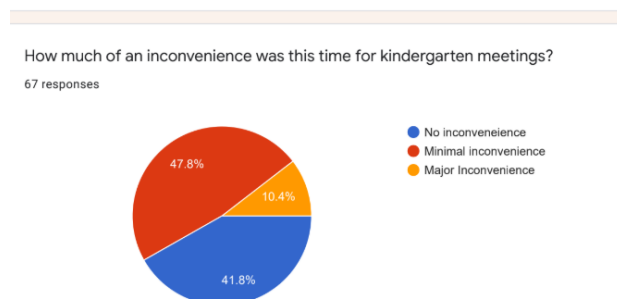
- OHA would need to train all teachers 3-5 on administering running records and using them.
- WW would have a refresher training on administering running records and using them to inform instruction.
- We would have a K-5 interrater reliability training
- This assessment administration would be practiced with students.

## Other

[Survey](#) kindergarten families  
[Results](#)



## Strengths



I like these meetings because it gives the kindergartener one on one time with their teacher before they start for the year. It gave my son a sense of belonging to the classroom and helped him feel connected to his teacher. It is a nice transition to school.

It helped ease my child's nerves, who is usually very nervous about new things!

Gave teachers the opportunity to assess students' skill levels prior to the start of the year

### **Suggestions for Improvement**

It was difficult for our family to cover the 2 days prior to kindergarten starting. I had to take one day off of work (the day of his kindergarten meeting/screening) and then take my son to work with me on the second day. He was so excited to start kindergarten, it was hard for him to watch his sister have a first day of school on Tuesday and then make him understand that he had to wait Thursday that week to begin school.

Allow some choice of times for the assessment, or a way to give preferences - at least if it's important. For us, it wasn't a big deal, but for other families it could be a hardship to have the appointment scheduled for them with no chance for input. Maybe don't ask everyone for their preference, but give contact info ahead of time in case it's important - that way only families who have a conflict or difficult scheduling will contact you with their preferences.

It might be nice to have the meetings prior to the start of school, as the kid's usually have day care already lined up.

Have kindergarten start the same day as their elementary peers.