



Title: Assessment of Student Learning
Date: December 12, 2012

Beliefs: We believe that assessment is integral to the mission of McGraw Elementary School. It is a continuous process which guides teaching and learning and contributes to evaluating the effectiveness of the Primary Years Program at McGraw.

The focus of assessment in an IB Primary Years Program school is to help students develop the five essential elements of learning: the understanding of concepts, the acquisition of knowledge, the mastering of skills, the development of attitudes and the decision to take action. Students, parents, staff and administration must have a clear understanding of what is being assessed, the criteria for success and the method by which the assessment is made. Active involvement of both students and teachers results in meaningful and accurate assessment.

Assessment information must be shared in a forthright manner with all stakeholders and used to evaluate student progress and/or the effectiveness of the program.

Practices:

Standards-based assessments issued by the State of Colorado and Poudre School District must be administered yearly to students at McGraw. These assessments help complete a profile of student progress toward proficiency of mandated state standards. The results of these assessments are shared with students and parents. Teachers analyze the body of evidence provided by assessment data to help design learning experiences for the student.

Teachers and students also make use of assessments within PYP Units of Inquiry to analyze student development of unit knowledge, skills and understandings. These assessments:

- reflect input from students as well as staff
- focus on student understanding of the central idea (summative)
- are continuous throughout the inquiry (formative)
- launch the planning process
- provide opportunities for reflection on the process
- show evidence of students' understanding and thinking
- allow students to express different points of view and interpretations
- are developmentally appropriate
- highlight student strengths
- address a range of needs and learning styles
- provide opportunities for differentiation

Teachers use a range of methods to document student learning as a means of assessing student understanding.

Reporting:

The following essential agreements and checklist describe how and when evidence of student learning is reported to stakeholders at McGraw:

- Reporting

- Student Portfolios
- Conferences at McGraw
- McGraw Assessment and Reporting Checklist

Access and Review of Our Assessment Policy:

Agreed-upon assessment practices at McGraw have been compiled and stored in a common location accessible to all stakeholders. Our assessment documents are reviewed annually by the staff and revised as our assessment practices continue to evolve.