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STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Internal Communique • Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

Dynamic Learning Maps 2014-15

Missouri participated in pilot and field testing this school year. So far 4,527 students in Missouri have participated in Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment since October 2014. The following information provides a brief overview of DLM testlets.

Testlets

Testlets assess a variety of Essential Elements and linkage levels, in English language arts and mathematics, from grade 3 through high school. Some testlets are administered by the teacher or other qualified test administrator. The test administrator uses instructions onscreen to guide the test administration. Other testlets are taken by the student directly on the computer.

Teacher-administered testlets

In this type of testlet, teachers read and follow the on-screen instructions. Teachers enter students' responses to activities or exchanges that occur outside the system.

Teacher-administered testlets are used when:

- The knowledge and skills being tested are difficult to assess on the computer (such as writing testlets), or
- The student has presymbolic communication and cannot interact directly with the computer.

Computer-administered testlets

Students may move through the test using a mouse, tab key and enter key on a keyboard, or with switches. If the student can engage with the content but cannot move through screens or enter their own answers, the teacher may move through the screens and record the student's answers on his or her behalf.

Computer-administered testlets are used when:

- The knowledge and skills being tested can be assessed directly by computer, and
- The student can interact with the system directly and select his or her own answer, using assistive devices or other supports as needed.

Linkage levels include:

- Initial Precursor (IP)
- Distal Precursor (DP)
- Proximal Precursor (PP)
- Target (T)
- Successor (S)

For more information about the DLM assessment go the Dynamic Learning Maps website at <http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/content/information-parents>.

Legislators Visit H. Kenneth Kirchner School

On January 22, 2015 Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled (MSSD) was honored to host a tour of H. Kenneth Kirchner School in Jefferson City for Missouri legislators: Rep. Kathy Swan from Cape Girardeau, Rep. Lauren Arthur from Kansas City, Rep. Tila Hubrecht from Dexter, and Rep. Kurt Bahr from St. Charles.

After Bonnie Aaron, MSSD Assistant Superintendent, Darlene Baugher, Area II Director, and Paula Patterson, Building Administrator presented information about MSSD and Kirchner School, they escorted the Representatives around the school to observe students' learning and using assistive technology such as iPads, augmentative communication devices and visual schedules.



Rep. Hubrecht, Rep. Arthur, Rep. Swan, Paula Patterson and Darlene Baugher look on as Haley looks at her schedule to see what job is next. Bethany (seated) uses her communication device to greet the visitors.



Darlene Baugher, Paula Patterson, Rep. Bahr, Rep. Swan and Rep. Arthur watch Brayden ride an adaptive tricycle.

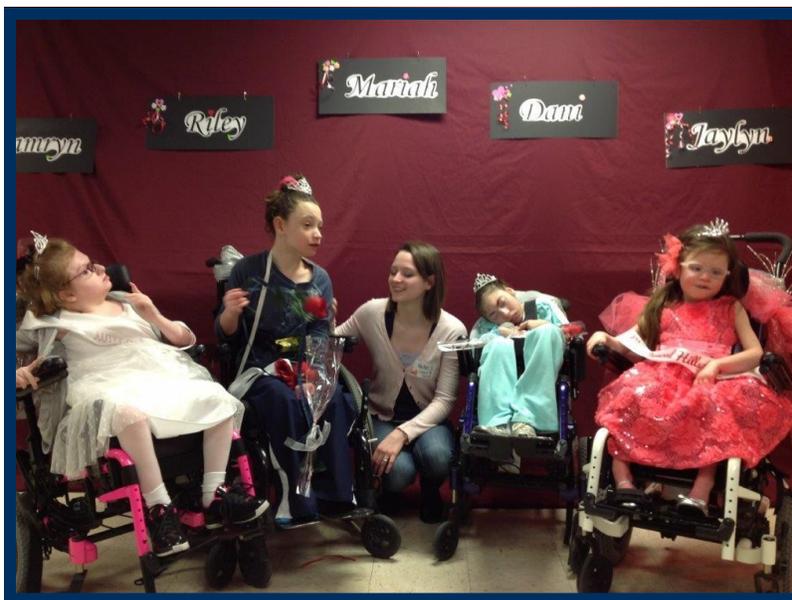


Rep. Bahr, Rep. Arthur, Rep. Swan and Rep. Hubrecht observe Shelly Stumbaugh, teacher aide, working with Esteffany, Jeremiah and Justin.

Miss Dogwood Hills Pageant Held at Dogwood Hills School

The Miss Dogwood Hills pageant was held February 11, 2015 at Dogwood Hills School in Eldon. A video of the contestants in their school setting was shown to parents, staff and students. Crowns and sashes were presented by Rachel Seek, the Learn & Serve student. Roses were presented to each Miss Dogwood Hills Contestant by Andy. The winners of the pageant were:

- Miss Dogwood Hills—Mariah
- Miss Dogwood Hills Jr.—Camryn
- Miss Dogwood Hills Teen—Danielle
- Miss Dogwood Hills Pre-teen—Riley
- Little Miss Dogwood Hills—Jaylyn



Camryn, Riley, Rachel Seek, Mariah and Jaylyn



Ms. Dogwood Hills, Mariah is presented a rose by Andy.



Ms. Dogwood Hills Jr., Camryn

Emotions Color Wheel

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In our daily efforts to help students express themselves, it is often difficult to find effective and useful tools that can be used with and by Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled (MSSD) students. Some MSSD students are nonverbal and need pictures to help. The Emotions Color Wheel uses color, words and pictures to express an array of emotions.

The Emotions Color Wheel is located on the do2Learn Web site at <http://www.do2learn.com/organizationtools/EmotionsColorWheel/index.htm>. Simply click on the word for an emotion and a person's face pops up, which expresses the emotion. The Emotions Color Wheel is large and easy to look at on the Web site. It is almost as large as a computer screen used in the classroom. This is a great teaching tool as well as a behavior and expressive language tool.

