

# QE BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS

## What is a benchmark assessment?

Benchmark assessments are given 3 times a year (Fall, Winter, & Spring) and have goals set for each grade level and time of year to help determine if your child is staying on track academically. The outcome of these assessments helps us determine if your child's needs are being met through the interventions that we currently have in place. After each round of benchmark assessments, all grade level teachers meet as a team with the principal, reading specialist, learning support teacher, school counselor, and school psychologist to review each student's scores and discuss any necessary recommendations and/or changes to their instruction.

## What assessments are given?

CDTs – The CDTs is an individual computer-based comprehensive math assessment that assesses all math units and skills that students will or have already been exposed to each school year. The assessment is unique to your child in that the grade level of the questions begins to increase once they've demonstrated a strong understanding of each skill. This helps to determine placements for your child in math tier.

DIBELS Math – The DIBELS Math assessment focuses on foundational math skills such as, number sense, problem solving, and fact fluency. This short assessment is given to the whole class. Scores help determine strengths and weaknesses in your child's foundational math skills and help determine placements for math tier.

DAZE – The DAZE assessment is a 2 ½ page story with missing words. In place of the missing words, students are provided with boxes with 3 word choices. Students must rely on their context clues to select the correct word for each answer space. Students have 3 minutes to answer as many as they can. This helps to assess your child's reading comprehension and their use of reading strategies as they read.

DIBELS – The DIBELS assessment consists of 3 passages. Students are given a minute to read each and asked to retell what they've just read after each one. Mean scores are collected on the number of words a student reads correctly in 1 min, their reading accuracy, and their reading comprehension. These scores help determine your child's reading strengths and weaknesses and placements for reading tier.

KidBiz – KidBiz is a differentiated online reading program for your child to practice their reading fluency, comprehension, and writing skills on the computer. The Level Set Test helps determine at what level in the program your child will begin.

Words Their Way – This is our spelling program at QE. A 25-word spelling test (with words that have not been studied prior to the assessment) helps to determine where your child falls on a continuum of spelling skills that have been identified as developmentally appropriate for each grade level. This helps determine which spelling patterns your child has mastered and which they still need instruction and practice with. Spelling groups A, B, and C are determined using this data.