

Vermilion Country School

Standardized Testing Calendar | 2026–2027 School Year

Published: September 10, 2026 **Publication requirement:** Published at least one week prior to the earliest eligible assessment window (NWEA Fall, begins 9/20/2026) and no later than October 1, 2026.

This calendar identifies every standardized assessment administered at Vermilion Country School (VCS) during the 2026–2027 school year, the testing window, the grade levels assessed, the purpose of each assessment, and whether administration is a local programmatic option or a requirement under state or federal law. This calendar is distributed to staff, families, and students in advance of testing so that schedules can be planned accordingly.

Testing Schedule at a Glance

Assessment	Testing Window	Grade(s)	Rationale / Purpose	Requirement Basis
NWEA MAP – Mathematics (Fall Benchmark)	Sep 20 – Oct 20, 2026	All tested grades	Establishes each student's fall baseline in mathematics to inform instructional planning, identify students needing additional support, and measure growth across the school year.	Local option — district/school-selected growth and progress-monitoring tool.
NWEA MAP – Mathematics (Winter Benchmark)	Jan 20 – Feb 20, 2027	All tested grades	Provides a mid-year progress check on math growth relative to fall baseline; results guide adjustments to instruction and intervention groupings for the remainder of the year.	Local option — district/school-selected growth and progress-monitoring tool.
NWEA MAP – Mathematics (Spring Benchmark)	Apr 20 – May 20, 2027	All tested grades	Measures end-of-year growth in mathematics from fall baseline; informs program evaluation, placement decisions, and summer/next-year instructional planning.	Local option — district/school-selected growth and progress-monitoring tool.
MCA – Reading	Tuesday, April 13, 2027 (2nd Tuesday of April)	Grades 7, 8, 10	Measures student proficiency and growth in reading against Minnesota state academic standards; results are used for state and federal accountability reporting.	Required — Minnesota state law (Minn. Stat. § 120B.30) and federal law (ESSA, Title I).
MCA – Mathematics	Tuesday, April 20, 2027 (3rd Tuesday of April)	Grades 7, 8, 11	Measures student proficiency and growth in mathematics against Minnesota state academic standards; results are used for state and federal accountability reporting.	Required — Minnesota state law (Minn. Stat. § 120B.30) and federal law (ESSA, Title I).
MCA – Science	Tuesday, April 27, 2027 (last Tuesday of April)	Grades 8, 9	Measures student proficiency in science against Minnesota state academic standards; satisfies state and federal science assessment requirements.	Required — Minnesota state law (Minn. Stat. § 120B.30) and

				federal law (ESSA, Title I).
MCA Make-Up Testing (All Content Areas)	April 28–30, 2027*	As applicable	Provides an opportunity for students who were absent or unable to complete an MCA session during the primary window to test, ensuring full participation as required for accountability reporting.	Required — same basis as the corresponding MCA content-area assessment.

* Make-up window shown follows the historical pattern (immediately after the final MCA content-area test). Confirm and update once finalized.

Key Terms

Local Option: An assessment selected by VCS for internal instructional purposes (e.g., growth monitoring, program evaluation). Not mandated by state or federal statute.

Required (State/Federal): An assessment VCS must administer to comply with Minnesota state statute and/or the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), including for purposes of state and federal accountability reporting.

Notes

- NWEA MAP Mathematics is administered three times per year (fall, winter, spring) as a local growth-monitoring measure and does not fulfill state accountability requirements.
- MCA (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) dates reflect the recurring Tuesday schedule (2nd/3rd/last Tuesday of April) as provided; confirm against MDE's official testing window once released, as state windows are sometimes adjusted.
- Make-up testing is reserved for students who miss a scheduled MCA session and is required under the same state/federal basis as the original assessment; exact dates should be confirmed.
- Specific daily schedules, room assignments, and proctor assignments will be communicated to staff and families separately as each window approaches.