

What is Strong Beginnings?



Strong Beginnings is an assessment that occurs early in September for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8. On September 19th and September 22, 2025 children will attend school by appointment for *approximately 45 minutes* to participate in assessment activities. The appointments on these days replace regular classes. This is an opportunity for teachers to extend and consolidate their understanding of each child in order to plan for instruction. This in turn will effectively address unique learning needs as early as possible in the new school year.

How does Strong Beginnings enhance classroom assessment?

Teachers begin to observe and assess their students on the very first day of school in order to get to know them as individuals and as learners. They typically use a variety of assessment strategies such as observation, interviews, paper/pencil tasks, individual, small group and whole group interactions. All of these activities yield information that contributes to creating a 'strong beginning' for each student. The time to meet individually with students by appointment affords teachers the opportunity to reflect upon information collected in classroom assessments and engage in more in-depth assessments that contribute to a more complete understanding of each child. All students are included in this process.

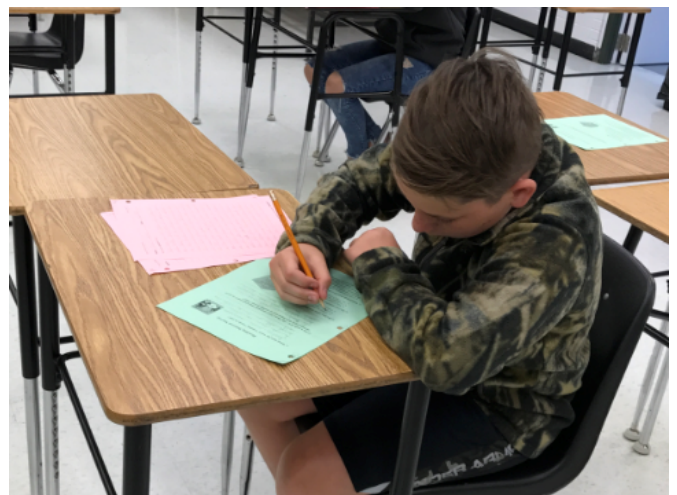
What information will appointments yield that classroom assessment might not?

Teachers working individually with their students in an atmosphere of support and encouragement have an opportunity to collect first-hand information on them about such things as:

- how they learn
- their confidence as learners
- the learning strategies they possess
- their reading and writing skills & strategies
- their attitudes toward school and learning
- their ability to reflect upon and set goals for their learning

What will it look like in the classroom?

- Teacher will be working with one student at a time



What kind of assessment is done during these appointments?

Strong Beginnings is a formative assessment process. The major focus during the appointments is on **literacy** and the data collected at the Divisional level.

Eg. Instructional Text Level – Gr 2-8 for September assessment

All results (from the Benchmark assessment) are compiled and submitted to the school designate for divisional/school data collection. The other recommended assessments will add to the collection of assessment to be used for planning purposes and targeting instruction within the school and classroom.