

# **New Beginnings and Growth: How the 3rd PGA of MCH Brought the Warmth of Spring to the Heart of MIS**

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*(Source of photos: Michaela Marie R. Aguila)*

Spring is known to symbolize growth and new beginnings. Animals wake from hibernation, flowers bloom, and the leaves of trees change their color. Though Spring does not come to the Philippines like it does in other countries, it seems as if the warm season has specially come to the heart of MIS, known as Montessori Children's House. This spirit of growth was palpable during the recent 3rd Practice Group Assessment (PGA) for Kindergarten students, held on February 6th and 7th.

The PGA, administered four times each year, serves as a crucial evaluation tool for Kindergarteners in English and Mathematics. The fourth and final PGA functions as their entrance exam for the first grade. Miss Beth Desamparado, Assistant Chairman of Guidance and Student Affairs, emphasized that the 3rd PGA, more complex than its predecessors, acts as a comprehensive review in preparation for the culminating 4th PGA.

On Thursday, students tackled the English assessment, followed by the Mathematics exam on Friday. Both sessions unfolded within the bright and engaging Yellow Room of the MCH building. The morning session ran from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, while the afternoon session took place between 1:30 PM and 2:30 PM.

The PGA's grading system is designed to support student success. Students scoring below 75 are required to attend summer classes, while those scoring between 75 and 79 are recommended

for the school's summer enrichment program. This tiered approach ensures that all students receive the necessary support to solidify their understanding of the material.

Beyond the academic assessments, an individual interview between each student and the school's guidance counselor provides a crucial opportunity to evaluate the student's emotional readiness for elementary school. This holistic approach underscores the importance of nurturing not only academic skills but also emotional well-being. Miss Desamparado highlighted the multifaceted benefits of the PGAs, extending far beyond mere academic evaluation. These assessments offer invaluable practice in developing fine motor skills, particularly the proper pencil grip necessary for writing. Moreover, the PGAs introduce foundational academic concepts in a structured environment, fostering essential skills such as following instructions, concentrating on tasks, and building confidence in their abilities.

The Kindergarteners took the 4th PGA on February 27th and 28th, adhering to the same schedule as the previous assessment: English on Thursday and Mathematics on Friday, with the morning and afternoon sessions maintaining their respective time slots.

As MIS opens the door to new activities and learnings for the students of MCH, may we be reminded of beautiful flowers blooming in Spring, with numerous children continuing to blossom as they grow in their problem solving abilities, and handwriting skills through their PGAs—growing as individuals as they head towards their elementary school years.