



# Archdiocese of Newark

Office of Catholic Schools



February 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

During the week of March 5<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> the elementary schools of the Archdiocese of Newark will administer the *Iowa Assessments* to students in Grades 2 through 8 as part of the Archdiocese's standardized testing program. The *Iowa Assessments* will replace the *TerraNova* tests that were previously used for standardized testing purposes in the Archdiocese of Newark. The Archdiocese requires the use of standardized test in order to provide schools with objective, comparative data about the school's overall academic program and information about student growth across a continuum of learning standards. Standardized assessments produce information that enables schools to evaluate the effectiveness of curriculum and instruction, and develop plans for instructional improvement. Additionally, student and/or school eligibility for various state and federal programs and services are often based on standardized assessment results.

The *Iowa Assessments* measure achievement in several important content areas, including Vocabulary, Reading, Language, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. Each content area test includes sample questions to help students become familiar with the content and format of the tests. Sample questions help inexperienced test takers understand what to do—how to mark answers and move from question to question. All test questions are multiple choice. In Grade 2 most questions are read aloud, and students mark their choices in their test booklets by filling in the circle for the correct answer. In Grades 3-8, students read the questions and mark their answers on a separate answer sheet. Most content area tests on the *Iowa Assessment* take between 10 and 35 minutes. The total assessment is spread out over 4-5 days.

### Preparing Students

Students generally do their best in class and on standardized tests when they have adequate rest and nutrition. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep each night and has a nutritious breakfast each morning. Make sure your child brings any materials requested by the school for testing. Students should take the test seriously but not become anxious about it. Children are not expected to know the answers to all of the questions on the assessment, but they should be reminded to simply do their best. Remind your child to listen carefully to the directions and to carefully read or listen to each question.

### Test Results

We expect to receive score reports for the *Iowa Assessments* by the end of April. Schools should be able to distribute Home Reports sometime in early May, if not sooner. It is not possible to predict how scores on the *Iowa Assessments* will compare to scores on other standardized assessments. This is due to the fact that test design and norming populations differ. The scores reported for any nationally normed standardized assessment provide information about student academic achievement in relation to a national norm group comprised of peers who took the same assessment. The results of the *Iowa Assessments* will provide useful information about how the academic achievement of students in the schools of the Archdiocese of Newark compares to the academic achievement of their peers nationally.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dolan  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum,  
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