

Dear Parents / Guardians,

While other school districts use high stakes, end of year, time consuming testing, the Diocese of Erie Catholic schools have chosen a different path. We see the value of standardized testing to be one in which teachers and parents use the results to help the students become successful. We test in October, so that results received in November can be used in the current year. The data provided by the testing results helps teachers and principals work with students on mastering skills not yet mastered and decide on the most appropriate learning environment for students.

Test scores must be meaningful to be beneficial. To that end, the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Erie will begin to use standardized tests offered through DRC/CTB called the TerraNova and the InView. The TerraNova test will be given to students in grades two through eight. The InView, an ability test, will be given in grades three and six. Tests will be administered during the week of October 5, 2015.

The second grade test will remain strictly a multiple choice test. The TerraNova taken in grades three through eight is a totally different type of standardized test. Many of the questions are not multiple choice. Students will respond to real-world, authentic tasks through writing their responses and justifying their answers. The test is intended to measure the level of mastery the student has reached in all subject areas: Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Test questions will be in a variety of formats: multiple part questions, open response, completing a chart/graph, multiple choice, etc.

Results from the tests will indicate a child's strengths and needed improvements in each subject area and within each area there will be a further breakdown by learning objective. Scores will be reported by percentage compared to national norms. Parents will receive a Premier Home Report that provides test results and also suggestions for activities parents can do at home to assist their child's learning.

Due to the major change in the test format, we anticipate that students' scores may fluctuate from scores on tests from previous years. This new format is more rigorous and challenging, so any adjustment period is going to be worth the end result of valuable scores that help our schools and our parents best support the learning process for students.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Lytle
Director of Curriculum
Diocese of Erie