



Saint James Elementary School

Rev. Msgr. Philip A. Lowery, Director
Mrs. JoAnn Giordano, Principal
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Dear Parent(s),

We want to keep you informed on the changes concerning standardized testing for our students. We are very grateful for your patience and understanding with the delay in receiving the Terra Nova scores, and want you to know that the diocese has taken steps to ensure this does not occur again.

The diocesan leadership representing the four dioceses in New Jersey met throughout the summer and after much consideration have decided to implement the IOWA Assessment Standardized Test in March for all of our students in grades two through eight.

This assessment, designed at the University of IOWA, assesses student achievement in Reading, Written Expression, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Language. Students in the second, fourth and seventh grades will also take the Cognitive Abilities Test that guides planning of curriculum.

The administration and faculty will access the students' testing results through the Data Manager online program provided by the company. This advanced program will enable teachers to gather data and make any necessary adjustments to the curriculum. The testing reports will be web-based, combine results from different assessments, enable disaggregation of results and allow exporting of results at the local school. This assessment also has the ability to evaluate our sixth graders student preparedness for achievement in the ACT/SAT testing.

The IOWA assessment will be administered the week of March 5th with the week of March 12th set aside for make-up days. Parents will receive a Home Report that will indicate the testing results of their student. We appreciate your patience as we upgrade our testing program to provide positive assessment results in helping our students reach their potential.

We are grateful for all your kindness and support in choosing Saint James Elementary School to educate your child.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Giordano
Principal

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