

November 14, 2016

Dear Parents,

The assessment results received at conferences represent the grade equivalent ranking results on the 2016 nationally normed IOWA assessments that were administered this past October. Per Archdiocesan recommendations, these assessments are administered yearly to all students in grade two through eight and we use the results to point us toward continued school improvement and higher academic achievement for our students.

The staff and I are very proud of the overall achievement on the IOWA assessment and your child's individual results. Notable areas of student achievement this year are Math and Science!

We are looking at three year assessment trend. We compared class average grade equivalents in that 2014-2015 school year, and compared them to the 2016-17 results. Traditionally, an individual student should increase at least one grade level per year. Our class average grade equivalents show progress much above that level. Using the current 8th grade as *an example*, we found the following:

<u>2014-2015 Class Ave. Gr. Equiv.</u> (As 6th graders)			<u>2016-2017 Class Ave. Gr. Equiv.</u> (As 8th graders)	
5.5	Reading	+2 yrs	7.6	Reading
6.2	Written Expression	+3 yrs	9.7	Written Expression
7.4	Writing Conventions	+3 yrs	10.6	Writing Conventions
6.8	Vocabulary	+3 yrs	9.6	Vocabulary
6.3	Math Total	+4 yrs	10.1	Math Total
6.4	Social Studies	+2 yrs	8.5	Social Studies
7.2	Science	+2 yrs	9.7	Science

The grade level equivalents for all classes grades 2-8 (average score of the entire class, by grade) shown on the next page are a testament to the learning that has taken place. Also noteworthy is the fact, per Archdiocesan recommendations, our schools do not allow calculator use in the math section where on the M-Step they are on one section.

As principal, I credit the knowledge, dedication, and never ending energy that our staff and parent community present at Immaculate Conception. Please notice the strength in the writing portion of the assessment. Without strong reading, writing and comprehensive skills, all other core subjects will potentially be affected. In addition, when I visit the classrooms, I hear excellent conversations between teachers and students always trying to take their knowledge to the next level. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Lawrence Ricard