

December 22, 2017

Dear Parents,

The assessment results received at conferences represent the grade equivalent ranking results on the 2017 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. 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 Writing!

We are looking at three year assessment trends. We compared class average grade equivalents in that 2015-2016 school year, and compared them to the 2017-18 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>2015-2016 Class Ave. Gr. Equiv.</u>			<u>2017-2018 Class Ave. Gr. Equiv.</u>		
(As 6th graders)			(As 8th graders)		
6.8	Reading	+2 yrs	8.1	Reading	
8.5	Written Expression	+3 yrs	11.3	Written Expression	
8.9	Writing Conventions	+4 yrs	13.0	Writing Conventions	
7.1	Vocabulary	+3 yrs	9.9	Vocabulary	
6.9	Math Total	+4 yrs	11.5	Math Total	
8.2	Social Studies	+2 yrs	10.1	Social Studies	
8.8	Science	+2 yrs	10.9	Science	

The grade level equivalents for all classes grades 2-8 (average score of the entire class, by grade) shown on the back 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 allowed 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. Strong reading, writing and comprehensive skills, effect all other core subjects. Visit classrooms, I hear higher level conversations between teachers and students. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Lawrence Ricard