

December 7, 2015

Dear Parents,

The assessment results enclosed with this letter represent the grade equivalent ranking results on the 2015 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 Writing and Science!

This year, we are looking at three year assessment trends going back to the year that the IOWA assessments were renormed. We compared class average grade equivalents in that 2012-2013 year, and compared them to the 2014-2015 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>2013-2014 Class Ave. Gr. Equiv.</u>			<u>2015-2016 Class Ave. Gr. Equiv.</u>		
(As 6th graders)			(As 8th graders)		
6.1	Reading	+2 yrs	8.7	Reading	
7.6	Written Expression	+2 yrs	10.9	Written Expression	
8.7	Writing Conventions	+2 yrs	13+	Writing Conventions	
6.9	Vocabulary	+2 yrs	10.8	Vocabulary	
6.5	Math Total	+2 yrs	10.6	Math Total	
7.7	Social Studies	+2 yrs	10.7	Social Studies	
7.9	Science	+2 yrs	9.6	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