

September 26, 2011

Dear Parents,

For many years Assumption School and the Diocese of Grand Rapids have used the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) to assess student's progress. The Diocese has decided to switch to a new assessment. This year for the first time, all Diocesan Schools will be administering a new test. It is called the Measurement of Academic Skills or MAPS for short. Tests will be given to grades 2-8 and will assess skills in Math, Reading, and English/Language Arts. These tests will be administered in the computer lab.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. With MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. Over the next three weeks, your child will spend a total of about three hours completing these tests.

Each school year, students will be assessed in three separate testing windows. Our first testing window will be October 3 – 21. The other two testing sessions are scheduled for January 3-30 and April 16-May 4. These three different testing sessions will allow parents and teachers to closely monitor student progress. Parents will receive reports detailing the results for your child(ren) after each session. All three testing windows will run approximately three weeks. However, your child will not be testing for the entire time. The long testing window is to be sure we have time to give make up tests for students that are absent due to illness, appointments, etc.

We are looking forward to using this new assessment program. We feel it will provide us with data that can aid us in both instruction and remediation.

If you would like more information on these tests, you can go to www.nwea.org and click on Partner Support and download the Parent Took Kit. As always feel free to call your child's teacher or myself if you have any questions.

Yours in Christ,

Mike Micele, Principal

