



Dear ICS Parent/Guardian,

From April 3 - April 7, your student will take the *Iowa Assessments*™. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the tests so that—with your support and encouragement—your student will do his or her best on the tests.

#### About the *Iowa Assessments*

The *Iowa Assessments* help determine how students are performing on nationwide standards. These assessments measure achievement in several important content areas including Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The exact tests that your student takes will depend on his or her grade level. For most tests, students read the questions and mark their answers by filling in a circle for each question. All test questions are multiple choice, and each individual test lasts between 10 and 35 minutes.

The *Iowa Assessments* help teachers identify a student's strengths and areas that may need additional emphasis. The *Iowa Assessments* also measure student growth and progress in the content areas assessed from year to year. The results produce information that enables sound decision making and provides a focus for teachers to evaluate instruction.

#### How your student can prepare for test taking—and what you can do to help

A student who is well rested and well fed and has a positive attitude about testing is best prepared for testing. You can help your student do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.
- Make sure that your student is in school and on time on test days. Reschedule dentist appointments and other out-of-school time to non-testing days.
- Remind your student that these tests are only **one** measure of what he or she has learned. Emphasize that you have confidence in his or her ability to do the best job possible.
- Remind your student to listen to the directions and read each question carefully during testing. Encourage your student to ask the teacher for help if he or she does not understand the directions.
- Be positive and don't fret. Your student will likely have some nervousness about the tests, but please be sure to encourage positivity and a "can do" attitude.

#### Use of test results & score reporting

ICS utilizes test results to inform instruction, monitor student growth over time, compare student performance with national groups, and evaluate programs and effectiveness of curricular changes. Test results do not have an impact on a student's grades and/or their ability to move on to the next grade level.

The school should receive test scores at the end of May. These scores will indicate how your student performed on the tests compared with students across the nation in the same grade. Discuss the test results with your student, and if you have any questions, contact Amanda Angaiak at 456-4574 or email at [aangaiakcsf@catholic-schools.org](mailto:aangaiakcsf@catholic-schools.org).

Thank you very much for encouraging and supporting your student during testing.

Sincerely,

Amanda B. Angaiak

ITBS 2016-2017