



Catholic Schools
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Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
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Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your continued partnership as we continue to instruct students during this pandemic year. We wish to inform you of some changes that will affect our usual standardized testing this spring. After much consideration, the Office of Catholic Schools **has decided to forego the requirement that all schools implement the ACT Aspire summative assessment for Grades 3-8 for the 2020-2021 school year.** Instead of administering the ACT Aspire, **Catholic elementary schools will implement the i-Ready assessment between May 10 and June 4.** While our original intent was to implement the ACT Aspire, the demands of serving our remote and in-person learners equitably and the burden of implementing this test proved too difficult. We feel it is important to prioritize instruction time over testing demands and continue the great learning progress happening in our classrooms.

The i-Ready will be given to all students, whether they're learning in-person or remotely.

In addition to this change, we have a specific ask of our families who have chosen to receive instruction remotely from St. Symphorosa school. Due to our desire for an accurate and authentic picture of your child's academic performance, we ask that you connect with your school and arrange for your child(ren) to attend a two-hour in-person time block so your child(ren) can take the i-Ready assessment with live teacher support. All COVID-19 protocols will be followed during the testing to help ensure your child's safety. We know this may not be possible for all students due to individual medical and personal concerns, but it is the preferred method for taking this exam. If you don't choose in-person for this testing, your school will reach out with a specific remote testing plan. More information will be forthcoming regarding the dates in May for this testing.

The Office of Catholic Schools appreciates your continued support and commitment to instruction this year. For specific questions about standardized assessments, we encourage you to contact your principal, or you may reach out to Dr. Hedi Belkaoui, Director of Continuous Improvement in the Office of Catholic Schools, at hedi.belkaoui@archchicago.org.

Yours, in Christ,

Handwritten signature of Jim Rigg in black ink.

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Handwritten signature of Hedi Belkaoui in black ink.

Hedi Belkaoui, Ed.D.
Director of Continuous Improvement