



February 13, 2019

Dear Parents,

May the peace of Christ be with all of you!

This spring, along with our five other sister dioceses and the Archdiocese of Miami, the schools in the Diocese of Orlando will administer the Terra Nova Third Edition Complete Battery test. The Catholic schools in the state of Florida have been administering the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) in past years; but after extensive review, the decision was made to migrate to the Terra Nova assessment ultimately because it was a better fit for the needs of our students and teachers. In the Diocese of Orlando, we take great pride in preparing our students to be faith-filled leaders as they move from school to college and the workforce. It is our mission to ensure that we bring to fullness all the gifts and talents (emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual and physical) that God has blessed your child(ren) with in our care.

As recommended by Terra Nova and the Office of Catholic Schools, this first administration of the test should be considered a baseline by which *future* growth can be measured. The ITBS and the Terra Nova are two different assessments, so it will not be appropriate to try and compare last year's test to this year's in order to show growth. It is also important to note any standardized test presents a single-day snapshot in the academic progress of children. It should be just one of several ways in which your child's growth and progress can be measured. All assessment, including standardized test results, comprises the data that we use to inform and revise classroom instruction in order to better meet the needs of your children.

In this letter I have also included an attachment with more specific details regarding Diocesan policy related to standardized testing, which may help answer other possible questions. Should you have questions or concerns about your child's academic progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child(ren)'s teacher or principal. He/she will be better able to review all assessments to more clearly determine your child's current growth and progress.

The Office of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Orlando is committed to educational excellence, both in our Catholic faith and in academic performance.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Fortier".

Henry Fortier
Secretary for Education/
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." - Matthew 19:14