



Saint Louis Catholic School

September 2017

Dear St. Louis Families Grades 3 – 7,

We are preparing to begin another year with the Diocese of Arlington diagnostic and standardized testing tool, Scantron Performance Series. This new assessment makes it easier for your child's teachers to identify his or her progress and find the diagnostic information needed to assist your child academically as well as manage instruction.

Scantron Performance Series is a web-based, computer adaptive test in Math, Reading and Language. Test times will be in the Fall (mid to late September), Winter (end of January) and Spring (early May), and they will be administered during class time and monitored by the classroom teacher. Communication about the test and results will take place throughout the year. At the parent-teacher conferences in November, you will receive the first set of diagnostic information. You will again receive information with the second quarter report card, showing progress and growth in tested areas. The final assessment time in May will provide you and the school with nationally normed results for student records and for instructional use as we look towards helping your child continue with academic success in the following year. That information will go home with final report cards. All of the diocesan schools began using Scantron Performance Series last school year and unanimously praised this testing program for the valuable information that it provided to teachers and parents as well as for its high quality reporting. They were also pleased with the total reduction in testing time due to the removal of the paper/pencil process.

St. Louis School students will be using chromebooks and lab computers for all testing. The first round of testing will happen in classes throughout the next few weeks. If a student is out absent, we will make sure that he or she has time with the resource teacher to complete the assessment on another day during the testing window. Every student will have their own set of ear buds (provided by the school through your classroom materials registration fee), as there may be portions of the test that are orally read to them. Know that because this is an adaptive test, each child will test at a different speed, with different questions at different times. No one should worry about how long the test took them – each time may be different for each child. What can you do from home? Simply continue to support us as you always do, giving them a healthy start to each day and a good bedtime on school days. I'm sure that your children will be sharing how they feel about testing as they adjust to the new program. Your words of encouragement are always the best comfort. We will be doing the same thing here, as we assist students with procedures. Testing times will occur within normal instructional days, so regular classroom routines will carry on during open window testing weeks.

If you have any questions about testing details, you can refer to the Diocese of Arlington Scantron pamphlet that was sent home in August packets, and you can visit Scantron Performance Series at <http://www.scantron.com/performance-series>.

Blessings,

Kathleen McNutt
Principal