

ASSESSMENTS

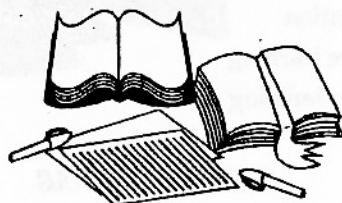
Our Catholic schools assess in many different ways, including fall standardized testing (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills), and the New York State assessments for grades 4, 5, and 8.

A variety of assessments are used including quizzes, chapter and unit tests, projects, cooperative learning assignments, presentations, etc.

Assessments also include CRQ's (constructed response questions) and DBQ's (document-based questions), graphic organizers such as maps, charts, and timelines, and listening exercises.

Rubrics are gradually being introduced with assignments, along with letter and number grades as appropriate to the activity and grade level.

The Diocese of Syracuse, along with other Diocesan and public school districts, is in the process of transition with student Progress Reports (Report Cards). Changes have occurred, and will continue to occur during the next year or two to meet the needs of students. The progress reports are being designed to match classroom instruction that is aligned with the NYS and Diocesan Learning Standards.



STANDARDS INTEGRATION

In order for learning to be meaningful, integration should be a part of all lesson planning. Students need to see connections in their learning, and to transfer knowledge and skills.

For example, the ELA (English language Arts) Standards can be integrated into all areas of the curriculum. Skill development in listening, reading, speaking and writing is essential in every discipline.

Students would use these ELA skills to:

- * act out a Scripture passage
- * Explain how to solve a word problem
- * respond to a piece of classical music
- * write observations during a science experiment
- * interpret a chart or map in social studies
- * work cooperatively on a team
- * express an opinion after reading an editorial

TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. Read to and with your children daily.
2. Provide opportunities for your children to work on listening skills and following directions.
3. Have children read cereal boxes, road signs, and ads in newspapers and magazines.
4. Make it a game to speak in complete sentences.
5. Provide many opportunities to write.

Diocese of Syracuse
as adapted from the Diocese of Rochester

CURRICULUM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Information for parents on Diocesan and New York State Learning Standards

RELIGION

THE ARTS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)



SOCIAL STUDIES

DIOCESSE OF SYRACUSE
EDUCATION
In Pursuit of Life-Long Learning

MATH/SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION/FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

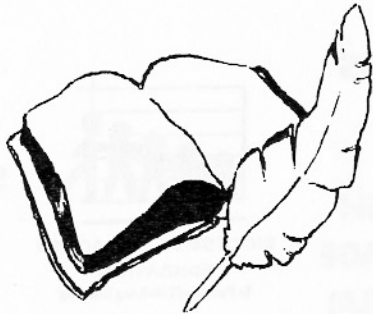
STANDARDS

The Standards are a broad overview of expected outcomes.

DEFINITIONS:

Standard: Describes what students should know and be able to do.

Performance Indicator: Describes what students should know and be able to do at various levels of schooling as they progress toward achieving the standards



WHY ARE THE STANDARDS SO IMPORTANT?

The Standards:

- * Require students to be actively engaged in their own learning
- * Present learning in real-life contexts
- * Require students to learn life skills
- * Make learning meaningful
- * Hold high expectations for all

THE MOST IMPORTANT LEARNING STANDARD

As Catholic schools, the MOST IMPORTANT "learning standard" is religion. There are four major areas that cover fourteen faith themes.

WORD

Revelation
Scripture
Creedal Concepts

WORSHIP

Sacraments
Prayer & Worship
Special Seasons

COMMUNITY

Church
Faith & Identity
Personal Growth
Relationships

DISCIPLESHIP

Christian lifestyles
Morality
Justice & Peace
Service

Catholic school teachers enter the classroom each day not just with a sense of professionalism, but with a sense of God.

Catholic schools educate the whole child. We educate the heart as well as the mind.

Catholic schools make the ordinary become holy.

STRATEGIES

What would you see in a Catholic school classroom?

- * Students actively engaged in the learning process
- * Students excited about learning
- * Prayer and reading areas, classroom libraries
- * Math, science and technology stations
- * Integration of disciplines, including religion and technology
- * A variety of instructional strategies
- * Hands-on learning
- * Numerous opportunities for listening skills to be strengthened
- * Critical thinking skills challenged
- * Assignments allowing for individual learning styles
- * Written and oral explanations of mathematical reasoning and problem solving strategies
- * Variety of quality assessments
- * Use of rubrics in many areas
- * Peer conferencing

What skills are students developing?

- * Decision making
- * Problem solving
- * Critical analysis
- * Communication
- * Cooperative learning
- * Community building



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
A GREAT START