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Dear Parents and Guardians,

In April 2018, elementary schools across the Archdiocese of Chicago administered the ACT Aspire summative test to all students in grades 3-8. The ACT Aspire assesses students' academic proficiency in five academic areas: English, Reading, Math, Science and Writing. Students completed the exam over four mornings at their school. ACT Aspire is aligned to the rigorous curriculum standards that inform classroom instruction in all classrooms across the Archdiocese. More information about the ACT Aspire, including grade-level test exemplars for each subject test, can be found on [www.discoveractaspire.org](http://www.discoveractaspire.org).

The Individual Student Reports shows your child's performance in English, Reading, Math, and Science. This year the writing test results are not reported as separately, instead the writing results are combined with reading and English to create an "ELA" score. Your child's schools will provide a document called "Understanding Your ACT Aspire Summative Results" which provides information on interpreting the Individual Student Report.

The Archdiocese's Office of Catholic Schools is pleased with the collective performance of all students in the Archdiocese as reflected in this third administration of the ACT Aspire test. The table below provides the average score for all students in grades 3-8 who completed the ACT Aspire this past spring. Additionally, the national average scale score is provided for each subject test. This year's results show that our schools have stayed consistent without any significant gains or declines in academic performance; the exception is in grade 3 reading where this year's average is one point below compared to the past two years. Improving student performance in grade 3 reading and in grades Pre-Kindergarten to grade 2 is a goal for all Archdiocesan schools as reading proficiency in primary grades is an essential skill for academic success.

A *sample* of student performance results for all Archdiocesan students in grade 3 for each of the content areas tested by ACT Aspire is provided in the following table. Terms found in the table are also explained below. **Complete scores for grades 3-8 across the Archdiocese and for your school can be found in the attached document.**

- **ACT Aspire Benchmark:** This numeric score indicates the benchmark that indicates grade-level proficiency. This metric does not change from year to year.
- **AoC Average:** This numeric score reflects the average score across the approximately 4,800 students across all grade-levels who tested in the Archdiocese.
- **National Average:** This numeric score reflects the average score for all students nationwide.



- **Readiness Level:** Scores for each subject test area reflect the average performance of all students in this grade level categorized into one of the following levels: *Exceeding*, *Ready*, *Close* or *In Need of Support*.

Grade 3 Results

	English	Reading	Math	Science
<b>ACT Aspire Benchmark</b>	413	415	413	418
<b>AoC Average 2018</b>	419	414	415	417
<b>AoC Readiness Level</b>	Exceeding	Close	Ready	Close
<b>National Average</b>	417	413	413	415
<b>National Average Readiness Level</b>	Ready	Close	Ready	Close

Your school will provide individual student performance results for ACT Aspire, as well as grade-level results and readiness levels for students in grades 3-8 that can be compared to the average performance of other Archdiocesan students. While it is interesting to note the national average for each subject level test, it is most important to acknowledge the performance level of students in relationship to the ACT Aspire benchmark for that grade level.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child’s education.

With best wishes for a successful new school year,

Phyllis Cavallone  
 Chief of Academics  
 Cc: Jim Rigg, Ph.D.  
 Superintendent of Catholic Schools