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Dear Parents and Guardians,

In April 2019, 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 exemplars for each subject test, can be found on 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 fourth administration of the ACT Aspire test. This year's results demonstrate that our schools have stayed relatively consistent in all grades across Reading and Math. We continue to work on improving student performance in reading as this is a primary goal for all Archdiocesan schools as reading proficiency is an essential competency for academic success. Please note the Aspire test assesses student understanding of concepts and asks students to demonstrate their proficiency with grade-level skills in a manner that may be different from other standardized tests your child has taken in the past. Additionally, ACT Aspire engages all students in a written response to a grade-appropriate prompt. Assessment of writing has high value for our college bound students.

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 your school can be found in the attached document.

- **Aspire Benchmark:** This numeric score indicates the benchmark that indicates grade-level proficiency.
- **AoC Average:** This numeric score reflects the average score across the approximately 23,000 students who tested in the Archdiocese.
- **National Average:** This numeric score reflects the average score for all students nationwide who took the ACT Aspire in the spring of 2019.
- **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.*

	English	Math	Reading	Science
ACT Aspire Benchmark	413	413	415	418
AoC Average	419	414	414	417
Nat'l Average	417	413	413	415
Readiness Level	Exceeding	Ready	Close	Close

Your school will provide individual student performance results for ACT Aspire, and [a guide to understanding the report](#). While it is interesting to the 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 the grade level.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education. With best wishes for a successful new year!

Phyllis Cavallone-Jurek
 Chief of Academics

Cc: Dr. Jim Rigg