



Office of Catholic Schools
 835 N. Rush Street
 Chicago, IL 60611
 tel 312.534.5200
 schools.archchicago.org

Phyllis Cavallone-Jurek
 Chief of Academics
 pcavallone@archchicago.org

July 8, 2019,

Dear Parents and Guardians of Grade 8 graduates,

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 test exemplars for each subject test, can be found on www.discoveractaspire.org.

The Archdiocese's Office of Catholic Schools is pleased with the results from the fourth administration of the ACT Aspire test. 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.

The student performance results for all Archdiocesan students in grade 8 for each of the content areas tested by ACT Aspire is provided in the following table. 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 Aspire benchmark for that grade level. Terms found in the table are also explained below.

- **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 5,000 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*.

	Grade	English	Math	Reading	Science
ACT Aspire Benchmark	8	422	425	424	427
AoC Average	8	432	426	425	427
Nat'l Average	8	428	423	423	424
Readiness Level	8	Exceeding	Ready	Ready	Ready

Your school will provide individual student performance results for ACT Aspire and [a guide to understanding the report](#). Please feel free to share your child's grade 8 ACT Aspire results with the high school s/he will attend in 2019-2020. Although not required, this information may be helpful in course placement.

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

With best wishes for a successful new year in high school,

Phyllis Cavallone-Jurek
 Chief of Academics

Cc: Dr. Jim Rigg