

Dear Parents,

This issue of the Quill includes the results of the 2016 October Terra Nova testing. Each year in the month of October our students in grades 3 through 8 are given the Terra Nova Achievement Test. The Terra Nova is a norm-referenced nationally standardized achievement test. Achievement tests include content standards that may or may not have been specifically taught that students could be expected to have mastered per their cognitive ability. Nationally standardized means that the test is administered to students across the country. Norms are also set for the time of year the tests are taken. In some cases, over 240,000 students are involved in the norming. This enables the test designers to establish appropriate percentile scales (norms) indicating how well students perform both by age and grade on test items.

Once again, St. Paul Elementary School and the Diocese of Columbus have surpassed the national average in grades 3 through 8 in all content areas including that of the Common Core which were tested. The students are tested in the content areas of reading, math, language arts, science, and social studies. These results have been broken down for you by grade and are depicted in the comparative charts in the following pages.

Some highlights of this data include:

- 7th and 8th grades: scored between 12 -33 points higher than students nationally
- 5th and 6th grades: scored between 5 and 19 points higher than students nationally
- 3rd and 4th grades: scored between 5 and 18 points higher than the national standard

Common Core content is intended to include the knowledge and skills students need in the areas of math and language arts that will prepare them for college, their career, and life. These skills are integrated into the math and language arts

standards and include the application of knowledge and higher levels of critical thinking and problem solving. For example

common core standards that are tested include but are not limited to:

- Integrating knowledge and ideas.
- Make sense of problems and persevere.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct arguments and critique reasoning.

Grades 7 and 8 also scored well on the Common Core section of the TerraNova surpassing the national standards by 13 – 28 points. Grades 3 and 4 also did well on the common core section scoring between 2 and 15 points higher. Grades 5 and 6 scores did equally well scoring between 6 and 19 points higher than the national standard score.

While test scores provide a valuable lens for viewing student achievement, we go beyond any single definition of success by recognizing the gains our students make each day in learning how to apply their faith and knowledge to solve real-world problems at home, in school, and within the community. We see this in their daily interactions with each other, the teacher and staff, and we celebrate with them in their continued achievement in high school and beyond. St. Paul School is a

community that exemplifies high levels of teacher commitment, student engagement, and student achievement.

We are proud of the gains our students, teachers, and families continue to make toward fulfilling our mission of teaching, living, and learning in the Light of Christ. But our work is not done. The data gathered from the TerraNova is used to identify areas in the curriculum that need improved upon and /or addressed with specific teaching and learning strategies. The data is further combined with the results of classroom formative and summative assessment to determine specific needs of individual students for meeting the standards and achieving academic success.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. We continue to appreciate the support of our school and parish families. Many blessings to you and your family during this Holy Week and always.

Happy Easter!

Kathleen Norris, PhD

Principal—St. Paul School

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