



DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
Superintendent of Catholic Schools



December 20, 2023

Dear Parents,

On behalf of Bishop Libasci and the Catholic School Office, we wish you and your families a very Blessed and Merry Christmas. May this Christmas Season fill you with wonder and joy in the infant Jesus, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John3:16)

As we look forward to the second half of the 2023-2024 school year, it is important for you to know that our system of Catholic schools will be moving to the iReady Diagnostic Assessment for Reading and Mathematics for the individual assessment of students in kindergarten through eighth grade. After learning in the spring of 2023 that our former testing company, NWEA, was no longer a viable option for our Catholic schools, we immediately gathered a committee comprised of school leaders and Catholic School Office staff, to begin vetting various assessment companies. After a thorough search, the committee presented their recommendation to partner with Curriculum Associates to use their iReady assessment program. I am grateful to the committee for their diligent research and for working directly with the Catholic Schools division of iReady in ensuring that this assessment not only meets our needs but is also aligned with Catholic teaching. I am happy to inform you that I have accepted their recommendation.

iReady is an adaptive and diagnostic assessment that will inform teacher instruction with valid, dependable, and easy-to-interpret data. The assessment will assist teachers in identifying student strengths and learning priorities to help give a comprehensive picture of classroom and individual student learning. It is important to note that we will only be requiring the iReady Assessment for our system of Catholic schools and not the connected instructional platforms packaged by Curriculum Associates. Instead, we will rely on our teachers to use iReady data in combination with other research and evidence-based literacy and math grade level benchmark assessments along with their own observations and classroom assessments to inform their unit development, lesson planning, and classroom instruction methodologies to best serve individual students and the entire class. The use of any connected instructional platforms from Curriculum Associates to support teacher instruction will be at the discretion of individual schools.

The literacy and math assessments each take about twenty-five minutes to complete for grades K-1 and ninety minutes for grades 2-8 and will be administered in the fall, winter, and spring so as to monitor student progress. This year, students will only take the assessments in the winter and spring because we took the time this fall to provide professional development to administrators, testing coordinators, and teachers regarding the use and administration of this new testing platform. The first testing window will be open for all schools from January 15 – February 5, 2024. The second window will be open in May. We will then pair our data review with ongoing professional development for teachers and leaders to provide real-time support for students.

Please join me in praying for the continued success of our Catholic schools as we partner with you, the parents, in the formation of your children. Please reach out to your school leaders or me with any questions you have regarding the iReady assessment.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
David A. Thibault
Superintendent