



Office for Schools

September 6, 2017

Dear Catholic School Parents,

The Diocese of San Diego is excited to start another school year of “*educating children in the image of Christ for our church and world!*” One of the key indicators of our success is the academic growth of every student that we serve. The Renaissance STAR assessment is one tool we use to measure that growth. Based on this data, your student’s teacher will be more informed about the impact of instruction and be able to make adjustments to best meet the needs of your student.

The elementary schools of the Diocese of San Diego are going into the third year of implementation of the Renaissance STAR in mathematics and reading. This assessment, given three times over the course of the year, is a guidepost for the Diocese. STAR is an adaptive assessment that is taken online. The company describes the adaptive nature of STAR:

“Computer-adaptive tests (CATs) continually adjust the difficulty of each child’s test by choosing each test question based on the child’s previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased. CATs save testing time and spare your child the frustration of items that are too difficult and the boredom of items that are too easy.”

- Parents Guide to STAR Assessment

STAR is aligned to the California Common Core State Standards that are used by the elementary schools in the Diocese of San Diego. The assessment is nationally normed and highly respected in the education field. The STAR assessment is administered to students in Kindergarten through 8th grade in math and reading. While only one measure, STAR provides valuable information that will lead to more targeted instruction. For more information about STAR please visit: www.renaissance.com/products/star-assessments

Sincerely,
Matthew Cordes
Associate Director of Schools