



Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

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August 2018

Dear Parents,

In Spring 2018, the ACT Aspire Summative Assessments were administered to students in grades three through nine in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Catholic Schools. Students were tested in English (including integrated writing), mathematics, reading, and science. Your student's scores provide important information for the teacher and school to make informed and timely changes to learning strategies, as well as the identification of need for intervention and enrichment opportunities.

The goal of assessment is to collect relevant evidence and data as authentically as possible from the student. ACT Aspire uses several types of assessment items to achieve this goal. Multiple-choice items offer an efficient, reliable way to sample a wide range of content skills and understandings. Constructed-response tasks (essay-type items) involve critical thinking skills, requiring students to explain, justify, critique, create, and demonstrate knowledge and understanding by generating responses. Context is provided when appropriate to reinforce practice applications of concepts, principles, and practices. Technology-enhanced items and tasks provide opportunities for students to respond to scenarios that are not possible with paper tests. Our schools are already at work developing plans to address indicated areas of need, as these skills are essential for our students' academic success in elementary, high school, college and careers, and beyond. A deep analysis of these assessment results provides us with the data necessary to continue to improve teaching and learning at every level in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Catholic schools.

The link below, which will be posted on the school's website, will take you to a short video that will explain the results more thoroughly. Also included with your student's report is a document entitled "Understanding Your ACT Aspire Summative Results." It is suggested that you view the video and review the attached document to better understand your child's results. Both of these are excellent resources for parents and students.

<https://actaspire.tms.pearson.com/Modules/Launch?moduleId=167>

We feel that the ACT Aspire challenges our students to expand their knowledge and skills as they progress each year. It will also help our teachers to deliver instruction to better meet the needs of each and every student in their classrooms.

Our administrators and teachers are committed to helping each child grow both in their Catholic faith and in their pursuit of academic excellence. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together for the children of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Catholic schools.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne Delaune Troxclair".

Suzanne Delaune Troxclair

Superintendent

Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Catholic Schools