



KNIGHTS NEWS:

TECH UPDATES

We have updated and improved our annual assessments for Student Achievement. As a Diocese we have adopted STAR Assessments which are computer based tests. The testing is individualized where the difficulty of each child's test is based on the child's previous response. For example, 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. We will be using this form of assessment for Math and Reading. Our previous annual assessment, IOWA and COGAT, only allowed for one test at the beginning of the year. This exam will be given a total of 3 times, during specific testing periods in order to track growth and define teaching objectives for each student. These assessments are for grades first through eighth.

Currently we use Accelerated Math in our middle and upper grade levels, which is a product of Renaissance Inc., the same company that hosts STAR Assessments. We have adopted its sister program Accelerated Reader. Accelerated Reader will allow teachers to plan and encourage students to read based on their reading ability and comprehension. This allows for a very individualized approach to reading as not all students read at the same level. Along with this program we have adopted a digital library, Brainhive. Students will be able to digitally borrow books that are grade level appropriate and accessible at school and at home through any digital device.

The final addition to our program is Classroom Dojo which was recommended by our School Board. ClassDojo helps teachers build a positive classroom culture by encouraging students and communicating with parents. ClassDojo is a behavior management tool for the classroom. Teachers can encourage students for any skill, such as "Working hard" and "Teamwork". Teachers can bring parents into the classroom experience by sharing photos, videos, and announcements. Teachers can also safely and instantly message with any parents. Parents see their child's updates at home via an app.

Teachers will continue to receive professional development in each of these programs throughout the year to build a strong foundation. We are launching all of these programs in stages to allow for the best success of integration.

Catholic schools have always been the leader in quality education and, as we evolve with instructional methodology and assessment together with the latest research, we will continue this tradition.

More information about our Renaissance, Brainhive, and ClassDojo programs can be found on our website under the Parents tab.