

Sacred Heart Jr.-Sr. High School

Dear 7th & 8th Grade Families,

From Monday, November 10 to Wednesday, November 12, your student will take the Iowa Assessments™. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the tests so that—with your support and encouragement—your student will do his or her best. **If you would like to donate snacks for the students that would be greatly appreciated! Snack ideas include granola bars, cuties (oranges), bananas, bottled waters, and gatorade. We have a total of 70 Junior High Students. Please bring any snacks to the front office. Thank you!**

About the Iowa Assessments

Taking the Iowa Assessments helps benefit our students in the following ways;

- Results help determine how students are performing on nationwide standards.
- They measure achievement in several important content areas including; Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.
- Help teachers identify a student's strengths and areas that may need additional emphasis.
- They measure student growth and progress in the content areas assessed from year to year.
- Provide information about college readiness for older students.
- Provide Teachers with information that enables them to make sound decisions when evaluating instruction.

Each test includes sample questions to help students become familiar with the content and format of the tests. Samples help students understand what to do—how to mark answers and move from question to question. For most tests, students read the questions and mark their answers by filling in a circle for each question. All test questions are multiple choice, and the tests last about 10 to 35 minutes.

How your student can prepare for test taking—and what you can do to help

A student who is well rested and well fed and has a positive attitude about testing is best prepared for testing. You can help your student do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure that your student is in school and on time on test days. Re-schedule dentist appointments and other out-of-school time on non-testing days.
- Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.
- Remind your student that these tests are only **one** measure of what he or she has learned. Emphasize that you have confidence in his or her ability to do the best job possible.
- Remind your student to listen to the directions and read each question carefully during testing. Encourage your student to ask the teacher for help if he or she does not understand the directions.

Score reporting and how we use test results

The school will receive test scores in about 6 weeks. These scores will indicate how your student performed on the tests compared with students across the nation in the same grade. Discuss the test results with your student, and if you have any questions, contact your student's classroom Teacher.

The Diocese of Salina Education Office uses test results to measure individual student growth from year to year and to monitor the progress of our Catholic Schools to ensure we are meeting or exceeding learning targets set by our accreditation partners.

Thank you very much for encouraging and supporting your students during testing. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact John Hamilton at 785-827-4422, and/or john.hamilton@salinacatholic.org.

Sincerely,

John Krajicek
Principal