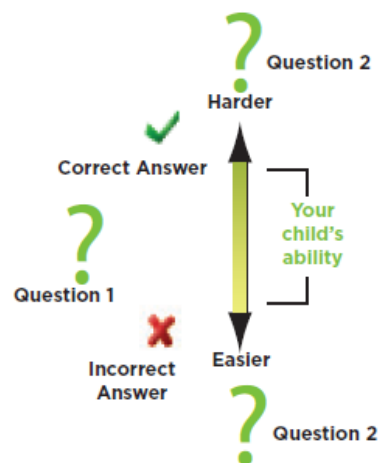# A Parent's Guide to Standardized Assessments

Scantron Performance Series is the official standardized assessment of the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools. Adopted in 2012, the Performance Series is administered three times each year in fall, winter, and spring to students in grades 2 through 8 in core content areas. Optional testing is available for students in kindergarten and first grade. An assessment for learning, the results from the Performance Series are used to determine course placement, and to inform instructional decisions. The Faith Knowledge Assessment is the official religion standardized assessment for students in grades 2 through 8, and the test is administered once each year in the spring. The Performance Series assessment assists your child's teacher(s) in identifying your child's progress—and provides the diagnostic information teachers need to manage instruction.

## What is Performance Series®?

Performance Series is a web-based, computer-adaptive test that your school uses to:

- identify your child's ability levels.
- demonstrate academic growth over time.
- place your child in the appropriate instructional programs.

Performance Series is one of the tools used to help identify your child's abilities and academic progress. You may be familiar with the paper-and-pencil bubble tests from Scantron. Performance Series is different because it is online and adapts to your child's current academic abilities. All tests begin in relation to your child's current grade. As your child answers each question, the test adapts according to his or her response. Questions get easier when your child answers incorrectly and get more challenging when he or she answers correctly. This individualizes every testing experience and more accurately measures your child's ability.



## Why is this helpful to you?

- Unique tests matched to your child's abilities more accurately determine his or her next steps in the classroom.
- Results from these tests provide information to help you understand your child's growth academically, through this year and across years.

## Why is this helpful to your child's teacher?

- Immediate results mean teachers can adjust instruction more quickly to help your child master important concepts.
- Educational materials can be customized (based on the results for each student and group) which help teachers improve learning.
- Detailed reports allow teachers to evaluate current or new teaching strategies and programs.

## Do all students see the same test?

All children see the same topic areas, but all children do not see the same test questions, because Performance Series is computer-adaptive—each test is unique for each child.

## How many test items does each student receive?

The test is online and computer-adaptive, so each child receives a unique test, and the number of items may vary. There is no set number of questions. The average number of questions in a testing session is approximately 50.

## Are the tests timed?

No, children are allowed as much time as needed to take the test.

**For additional information on the computer-adaptive testing model, see:** www.scantron.com/downloads/Performance_Series_White_Paper.pdf.

**Performance Series®**
WEB-BASED DIAGNOSTICS

**SCANTRON®**

**Achievement Series®**
WEB-BASED ASSESSMENT
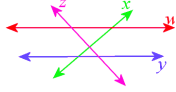
# Is Performance Series standards-based?

Yes, your diocese worked with Scantron to ensure that Archdiocese of Washington and national standards are used as the guide to assess your child.

# What subject areas and units are covered?

### Mathematics

Look at the diagram, then answer the question.

Which lines appear to be parallel?

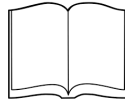Clasifica el siguiente triágulo.

**Units:**
- Number & Operations
- Geometry
- Data Analysis & Probability
- Algebra
- Measurement

### Reading

Braille is one of the most commonly used systems of reading and writing for people who are blind. Louis Braille invented it in in 1834, when he was only fifteen years old. Louis had been blind since he was three. He learned to read by touching letters engraved in wood. It was a very slow process and people could not use it to write. He had heard of the army using a twelve-dot system punched on cardboard to send communication to battlefields during the night. He adapted that system and created Braille, a six-dot system.

The six dots are arranged in a cell, which it three dots long and two dots wide. Each character is a different combination of those six dots. There are sixty-three

What do the following three events have in common?
- Braille is used in the United States
- Braille is officially adopted by the United States
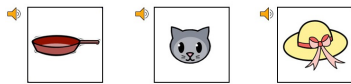- Braille is adopted as universal code for English

**Units:**
- Vocabulary
- Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Long Passage

### Reading Foundations

Read the word. Then choose the picture that matches the word.
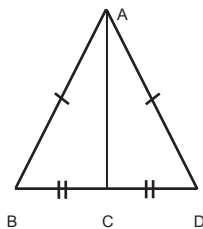
hat

**Units:**
- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics
- Text Comprehension
- Vocabulary

**NOTE:** Directions on all tests are available in English and Spanish.

### Geometry

Given $\overline{AB} \approx \overline{AD}$ and $\overline{BC} \approx \overline{CD}$, what statement below allows the SSS Postulate to directly prove that $\triangle ABC \approx \triangle ACD$?

**Units:**
- Congruence
- Similarity, Right Triangles, and Trigonometry
- Circles
- Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations
- Geometric Measurement and Dimension
- Modeling with Geometry

### Algebra

Solve the following equation for $c_2$.

$$R = \frac{c_2 - c_1}{3}$$

Solve for x. Round to the nearest tenth.

$$| \; 6.2x + 0.6 \; | = 19.2$$

**Units:**
- Polynomials and Rational Expressions
- Building Functions
- Creating Equations
- Interpreting Functions
- Linear and Exponential Models
- Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities
- Seeing Structure in Expressions
- Trigonometric Functions

For additional information on assessments administered in the Archdiocese of Washington, and assessment results, please visit the Catholic Schools website at www.CatholicSchoolsWork.org.

# What Do the Scores Mean to Me and My Child?

## Scaled Score (SS)[1]
The Scaled Score is a reliable estimate of your child's ability* and is independent of grade level. Use this score to track progress over time, from fall to spring or year after year, as a type of educational yardstick.

The following are average score ranges for different testing sessions in each of the subject areas.

### Mathematics

|    | Fall | Winter | Spring |
|----|------|--------|--------|
| K  | 1519-1727 | 1623-1855 | 1715-1936 |
| 1  | 1713-1933 | 1847-2041 | 1936-2159 |
| 2  | 1932-2165 | 2042-2282 | 2137-2348 |
| 3  | 2111-2343 | 2221-2420 | 2291-2500 |
| 4  | 2263-2477 | 2335-2540 | 2381-2604 |
| 5  | 2355-2576 | 2416-2638 | 2467-2706 |
| 6  | 2437-2670 | 2495-2731 | 2540-2803 |
| 7  | 2516-2776 | 2562-2832 | 2590-2892 |
| 8  | 2556-2855 | 2599-2914 | 2630-2962 |
| 9  | 2579-2879 | 2603-2929 | 2626-2961 |
| 10 | 2564-2868 | 2598-2919 | 2603-2951 |

### Reading

|    | Fall | Winter | Spring |
|----|------|--------|--------|
| 2  | 1807-2265 | 1969-2430 | 2061-2523 |
| 3  | 2037-2529 | 2196-2649 | 2262-2714 |
| 4  | 2260-2731 | 2390-2825 | 2439-2879 |
| 5  | 2435-2866 | 2538-2926 | 2585-2964 |
| 6  | 2567-2970 | 2637-3018 | 2670-3053 |
| 7  | 2670-3054 | 2718-3093 | 2946-3119 |
| 8  | 2736-3114 | 2795-3158 | 2820-3178 |
| 9  | 2783-3147 | 2814-3170 | 2823-3193 |
| 10 | 2798-3171 | 2824-3187 | 2831-3212 |
| 11 | 2793-3204 | 2822-3225 | 2834-3234 |

### Reading Foundations

|    | Fall | Winter | Spring |
|----|------|--------|--------|
| K  | 1303-1560 | 1458-1754 | 1592-1953 |
| 1  | 1536-1844 | 1700-2037 | 1828-2143 |
| 2  | 1762-2118 | 1909-2230 | 1959-2282 |

### Geometry

|      | Fall | Winter | Spring |
|------|------|--------|--------|
| 8-12 | 5340-5456 | 5367-5494 | 5374-5509 |

### Algebra

|      | Fall | Winter | Spring |
|------|------|--------|--------|
| 8-12 | 5319-5365 | 5344-5463 | 5353-5482 |

## Performance Rating[2]
The Performance Rating represents your child's rating in the context of a *diocese-defined* set of performance bands. This grouping may be used in the future to show your child's probable placement against national peers or on another test (e.g., PARCC).

## Gains[3]
Gains are simply the number of Scaled Score points by which your child has improved over time.  Through the year, this can be used to gauge if he or she is 'on track' and making good academic progress.

## Standards Item Pool (SIP)[4]
SIP scores are a grade-specific translation of the Scaled Score, in relation to Archdiocese of Washington and national standards. The overall SIP score represents your child's projected understanding of grade level testing material.
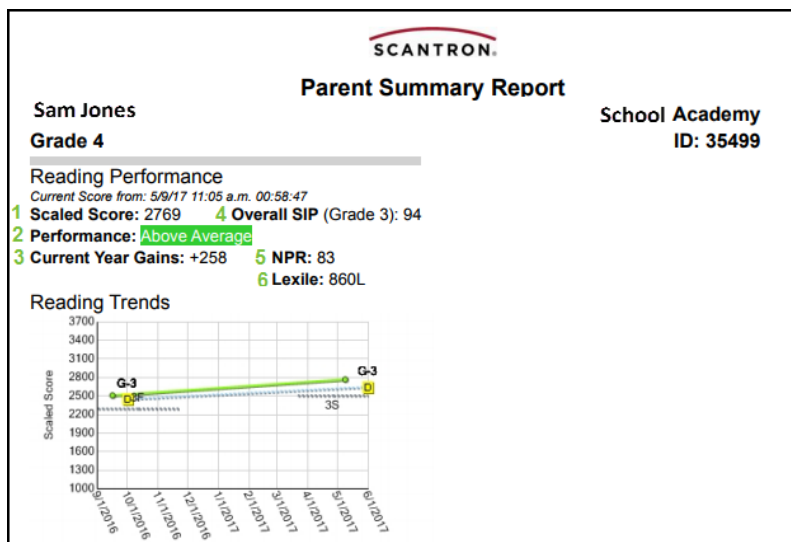
## National Percentile Ranking (NPR)[5]
The NPR uses the SS to compare the student to members of the Performance Series National Norm Group within the same grade level. For example, an NPR of 74 means that your child's score is above 74% of his or her peers in the national norm group.

## Lexile Measure[6]
The Lexile Measure identifies your child's place on a developmental scale that matches his or her reading ability to appropriate books. You can use this score online to locate books at your child's level at www.lexile.com.

## Unit Score Ranges (USRs)
Unit Score Ranges identify your child's ability on a specific unit within a subject. The center line in the USR bar shows your child's unit ability estimate, and the green bar shows the highest and lowest scores your child might get if he or she took the test again.

## Reading Rate
Reading Rate is a silent reading rate, calculated by dividing the number of words in the passages by the time it took your child to read those passages. Certain test taking techniques may alter the accuracy of this rate. This score will only be accurate if your child reads the story before answering questions.



SCANTRON

**Parent Summary Report**

Sam Jones
Grade 4

School Academy
ID: 35499

Reading Performance
Current Score from: 5/9/17 11:05 a.m. 00:58:47
1 **Scaled Score: 2769**    4 **Overall SIP** (Grade 3): 94
2 **Performance:** Above Average
3 **Current Year Gains:** +258    5 **NPR:** 83
6 **Lexile:** 860L

Reading Trends

# What is the Faith Knowledge Assessment?

The Faith Knowledge Assessment is the religion assessment developed by the Archdiocese of Washington, aligned to the religion curriculum guide, *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization.*
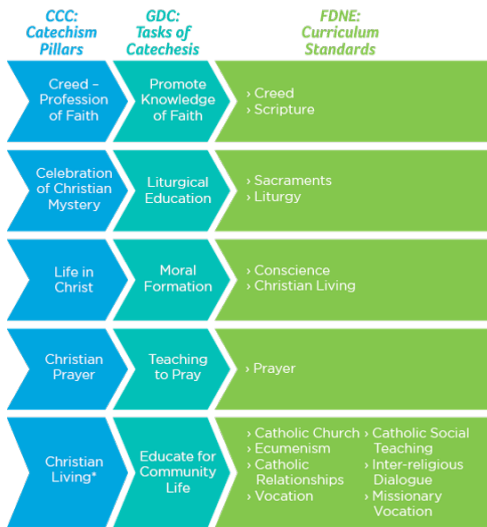
*We cannot assess faith, but we can and should assess religious education efforts.* The Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools and the Office for Catechesis have together implemented the standardized religion assessment. The assessment is administered once each year to students in grades 2 through 8 online in Catholic schools through Scantron's Achievement Series, and in a paper-pencil format in parish religious education programs.

**"Ongoing assessment also encourages life-long faith formation and identifies areas of growth needed for individuals, cathechists, their catechetical leaders and the programs themselves. It is important to remember that no one graduates from religious education; instead, they participate in a process that continues throughout life."** (*Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization,* Introduction, 13)

## What is the source of the religion curriculum standards?



CCC: Catechism Pillars | GDC: Tasks of Catechesis | FDNE: Curriculum Standards

Creed – Profession of Faith | Promote Knowledge of Faith | › Creed › Scripture

Celebration of Christian Mystery | Liturgical Education | › Sacraments › Liturgy

Life in Christ | Moral Formation | › Conscience › Christian Living

Christian Prayer | Teaching to Pray | › Prayer

Christian Living* | Educate for Community Life | › Catholic Church › Ecumenism › Catholic Relationships › Vocation › Catholic Social Teaching › Inter-religious Dialogue › Missionary Vocation

*While Christian Living is not a pillar of the Catechism, it flows from the Creedal statements of the preceding pillars. Here, it encompasses the "Education for Community Life" and "Missionary Initiation" Tasks of Catechesis.

## Sample Test Item

Indicator: 8.03.05  Recognize Confirmation as a Sacrament of Initiation carrying an indelible character and sealing the confirmands with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Why can you only receive the Sacrament of Confirmation once?

A. It has an indelible character.

B. Sacraments of Initiation can only be received once.

C. The bishop is too busy to confirm people more than once.

D. The Sacrament of Confirmation can actually be received more than once.

## What information will I receive to support my child's faith formation at home?



**The student profile report includes:**

- Total score (out of 100%)
- Number of correct items
- Number of incorrect items
- Performance band
- Test date
- Standards performance

## What is the format of the test?

**Tests include multiple choice, true/false, and matching items.**

| Grade Level | Number of Items | Grade Level | Number of Items | Grade Level | Number of Items |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade 2 | 25 | Grade 4 | 30 | Grade 6 | 35 |
| Grade 3 | 25 | Grade 5 | 30 | Grade 7 | 35 |
|  |  |  |  | Grade 8 | 35 |

# What is Achievement Series®?

The Achievement Series is a content-neutral, highly flexible testing product that the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools use to develop and administer online Benchmark Assessments in core content areas in the fall and spring. Teachers use the Achievement Series to develop and administer online or paper-based classroom tests. Like the Performance Series, the Achievement Series generates immediate, standards-based reports, allowing teachers to identify student strengths and needs in order to appropriately adjust instruction.