



St. John of the Cross Parish School



708 51st Street

Western Springs, IL 60558

August 28, 2017

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

As a school and a Diocese, we administered the ACT Aspire assessment to all students in grades 3-8 in five academic areas: English, Reading, Math, Science and Writing. St. John of the Cross Parish School is pleased with the results from this second administration of the ACT Aspire test. Our students exhibited growth or maintained in all areas in each grade level. Please note the Aspire test assesses student understanding of concepts and asks students to demonstrate their proficiency with grade-level skills in a manner that may be different from other standardized tests your child has taken in the past. Additionally, ACT Aspire engages all students in a written response to a grade-appropriate prompt.

A *sample* of student performance results for SJC in each of the content areas tested in grade 6 by ACT Aspire is provided in the following table for the year 2016 and 2017. It includes the following information.

- **Aspire Benchmark:** This numeric score indicates the benchmark for grade-level proficiency.
- **AoC Average:** This numeric score reflects the average score of approximately 5,000 students across all grade-levels who tested in the Archdiocese.
- **SJC Average:** This numeric score reflects the average score of our students in grade 7.
- **National Average:** This numeric score reflects the average score for all students nationwide who took the ACT Aspire in the spring of 2016 and 2017.
- **Readiness Level:** Scores for each subject test area reflect the average performance of all students in this grade level at SJC categorized into one of the following levels: *Exceeds, Ready, Close or In Need of Support*

AOC System-Wide Results Grade 6	English		Reading		Math		Science		Writing	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
ASPIRE Benchmark	420	420	421	421	420	420	423	423	428	428
AOC Average	429	429	422	422	423	424	424	424	428	428
AOC Readiness Level	Exceeds	Exceeds	Ready	Ready	Ready	Ready	Ready	Ready	Ready	Ready
SJC Average	435	434	426	426	428	430	429	429	433	437
SJC Readiness Level	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Ready	Exceeds
National Average	425	425	420	420	421	421	422	422	426	426

As you can see, we scored well above the National Average and the Archdiocesan average. The following chart indicates the longitudinal scores for grade 5 in 2016, grade 6 in May 2017, and is our present 7th grade.

GRADE 7					
Grade 5, 2016	429	425	422	426	427
Grade 6, 2017	434	426	430	429	436
Readiness Level	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds

We are very proud of the outstanding job our students accomplished in the second year of Aspire testing. Your child/ren's scores are provided through Power School and readiness levels for students in grades 3-8 that can be compared to the average performance of Archdiocesan students and the national average. We also have included a longitudinal study of students as they moved from one grade level to the next grade level. While it is interesting to note the national average for each subject level test, it is most important to acknowledge the performance level of students in relationship to the Aspire benchmark for that grade level.

If any family had an 8th grader last year, we will mail those results to you next week.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in your child's education.

Sincerely,
 Kathleen Gorman
 Principal