



# IOWA Standardized Tests

The IOWA Assessments are administered to our students in grades 2-8 each spring. The tests use a format that focuses on problem solving tasks rather than rote memorization as was common practice in the past. Needless to say, the tests are challenging and thought provoking for our students.

It is important to note that the IOWA assessments are only a single “snapshot” of who a child is as a student. The IOWA assessments are nationally normed meaning that the test is written for a particular grade level, and the scores compare to the national averages of grade level students around the nation. These tests are an indication of the knowledge and skills a child possesses, but the scores are not definitive of a child’s ability to perform. The average student performs on grade level at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, so scores above 50% or a stanine of 5 are above average for the grade level.

GSCS’s results continually surpass the 50% national average which is impressive! Each year our students have improved at every grade level which indicates that they are grasping the basic knowledge and concepts necessary for the problem solving that is required with the test. Our students generally average scores in the 60<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> percentiles and stanines of 6’s and 7’s, whereas the national average is 50% or stanines of 5. This data confirms what we already know which is that as a school our students are performing at and above grade level even when the test has more difficult questioning and assessment techniques.

In comparison to the Diocesan averages our school performed at or above the Diocesan averages in 90% of the assessed categories! As always, we know that these test results provide information that we use to improve instruction and assessment so our children continue to make gains and perform well on these tests as well as in the classroom. With an ultimate goal of scoring 80% and higher, we will employ instructional and assessment strategies throughout the year to prepare our students for these tests.

We believe that Catholic schools have high academic standards and rigor which is indicated by our performance on standardized tests. Our results prove that we are doing our students a wonderful service by providing an educational experience that is preparing them for any task they encounter. We are very proud of our results as well as of the children’s performance.

Specific questions or concerns regarding a child’s results can be addressed with child’s teacher. Thank you for your support as we continue to provide a quality education while striving to continually grow and improve. With the inclusion of our faith in everyday life, there is no better product!

Always believe in God.  
Because there are some questions  
that even Google can't answer.