

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS STATEMENT ON THE RELEASE OF PARCC RESULTS

December 2015

In the spring of 2015, students in Washington, DC and Maryland Catholic elementary schools participated in the administration of the The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC). Sixteen schools – nine (9) in Washington, DC and seven (7) in Maryland – administered PARCC exams in reading and mathematics to 1,923 students in grades 3 through 8. The PARCC is a national standardized assessment in reading and mathematics that was administered for the first time in eleven states and the District of Columbia. The Archdiocese of Washington was the only Catholic diocese that participated in the first administration of the PARCC, and in doing so, made history by administering a Maryland or DC official state standardized assessment, for the first time.

Catholic schools administered the PARCC not to make history, but to have information that supports continuous school improvement efforts. By administering the same standardized assessment, Catholic schools are able to compare the outcomes of their academic programs to that of the public and charter schools in the Washington area, and measure college and career readiness of Catholic school students. The Scantron Performance Series will remain the official standardized assessment of student academic performance, and the primary diagnostic tool of academic rigor and readiness in the Archdiocese of Washington. However, the one-time participation in PARCC will provide important comparison data that will be benchmarked against local public and charter school norms, which will allow principals and teachers to

communicate the effectiveness and excellence of Catholic school programs to parents, prospective parents, advisory boards, parishoners and other key stakeholders. In addition, the comparison data will underscore the benefits of the investment in a Catholic school education.

The Archdiocese of Washington's preliminary PARCC results were released to principals for internal review in November. Overall, the preliminary PARCC results are in-line with the Scantron Performance Series results, which for the past three years have demonstrated that Archdiocese of Washington Catholic schools perform above the national average in reading and mathematics. Pending the release of public and charter school results from DC and Maryland, student-level score reports will be released to schools to share with parents in January, and will compare individual student results to the PARCC consortium and state averages in DC and Maryland. The school-to-school comparison reports will be released to principals in June.
