



## ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL

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300 Kings Highway  
Haddon Heights, NJ 08035-1396  
856-546-6166  
FAX 856-546-6601  
www.strosenj.com

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Dear Parents,

During the 2018-2019 school year, we piloted the use of a Star Assessments in grades 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> to give teachers new kinds of information to help their students to improve their skills in reading and math. Teachers were very enthusiastic about the assessments, and we saw the results in our students' learning. I am excited to share that we are now using the assessments for all students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Star Assessments are computer adaptive tests. This means that the next question a student gets on the assessment is based on whether or not the previous question was answered correctly. The result is that each student's results show the teacher which skills that student has mastered and which skills should be taught next. The reading test also provides teachers with an approximate reading level range to assist teachers and students in selecting challenging, but manageable books and articles to read.

Because each test only takes about 25 minutes, the gains from the information that teachers receive more than make up for the small amount of instructional time lost from taking them. One of the most exciting aspects of the Star Assessments is that their short duration allows us to administer them more than once. This gives teachers information about not only the skills students have mastered but also how much they have grown, and whether or not their growth is appropriate for their grade and skill level. This information is very helpful in providing additional support to students who need it. We will be administering the assessments again in January and May.

The parents of each student who has taken the Star Assessments this year will receive a report in June that indicates that student's level of performance at the end of the school year. Teachers may also share results with some parents during parent teacher conferences after the first quarter if they will be helpful in communicating an overall picture of a student's progress and any different approaches that may be necessary. All students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> will continue to take the Iowa Assessments in March as part of our overall assessment approach. Parents will receive the results of those assessments by early May.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our academic programs and of St. Rose of Lima School. We are excited to use this new tool to help us continue to facilitate your children's learning and growth this year.

God Bless,  
Deacon Joseph Rafferty  
Principal, St. Rose of Lima School