



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE
OFFICE FOR CATECHESIS & EVANGELIZATION
OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Office of Catholic Schools and Catechesis & Evangelization of the Diocese of La Crosse is actively engaged in providing valid confirmation of quality instruction in the Catholic Schools. To this end the Diocese has provided a set of curriculum standards that radiate from the mission of Catholic education. The Diocesan assessments are intended to provide feedback to schools regarding their success in cultivating attitudes, practices, and faith knowledge consistent with the creed, doctrines, and traditions of the Catholic Church.

Rationale for Diocesan Assessment: The Faith Knowledge Assessments are given to students in Grades 5, 8, and 12, and are intended to align with the curriculum standards of the teams teaching grades 3-5, middle school, and high school. While there is a limitation on the level of cognitive skills that can be assessed with multiple choice and True-False test items, the assessment nevertheless should help teachers recognize the degree to which students are being formed in the formational content that is necessary to living the life of a faithful Christian. Obviously the assessment provides only one metric: knowledge content.

The focus of the assessment **reports** is upon how the students scored cumulatively in the different content categories. The reports allow school leaders to compare test averages overall and by category with the Diocesan averages. Scores significantly lower than the Diocesan average may mean that there is a gap in the school's religion curriculum requiring further analysis. It is an expectation of the Diocese that school leaders will use data from the Diocesan assessments to help determine strengths and weaknesses in the school's instructional program.

We continue to depend upon contributions from Diocesan teachers for actual test items as well as feedback on the alignment between the assessments and what is being taught in the schools of the Diocese. Thank you for your participation.