



Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Miami will be administering a new standardized achievement test beginning in the Spring of 2019 as a part of their comprehensive assessment program. The new *TerraNova-Complete Battery* achievement tests, created by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), includes norms developed in the year 2018 and measure student progress toward National Standards.

The information received from a norm-referenced test, such as the TerraNova, will provide schools with data that will help confirm the progress of students toward nationally recognized content standards. Analysis of the performance outcomes, together with information collected in classrooms throughout the academic year, will allow educators to more effectively meet the needs of individual students and instructional groups. Additionally, this information will also help teachers assess the need for use of differentiated instructional strategies that will increase the probability that all students will be successful.

How will the *TerraNova* Assessment be different from the Iowa Test of Basic Skills?

- More up-to-date comparison of performance to other students in the nation
- Newer publication date with more up-to-date graphics and color
- More reflective of the instructional activities required in today's classroom
- Greater emphasis on higher order thinking skills and deeper depths of knowledge
- Aligned to the most recent educational standards

Catholic educators strive to utilize the best educational programs and assessments in efforts to enhance student learning. Please talk with your child about testing as one way for teachers to obtain information that will be used to improve instruction of the educational skills important to all learning. Current educational literature confirms that last minute "cramming" has no noticeable effect on test scores. It is important to encourage your child to keep up with assignments throughout the school year.

For more information on the *TerraNova* assessment, you may visit the company website at www.datarecognitioncorp.com, or the product website at www.TerraNova3.com or contact your child's teacher and/or school.

Thank you,
Kim Pryzbylski, Ph.D.
Superintendent