

Terra Nova Standardized Tests at St. Thomas More School

St. Thomas More students in grade 2 through 8 take the *Terra Nova* standardized achievement test each spring. *Terra Nova* is always administered with similar questions, the same directions, the same time limits, and the same scoring criteria for all students. The results compare a student's performance with that of other suburban students across the country in about the same grade. The *Terra Nova* test differs from the traditional achievement tests by focusing assessment on what students *can* do, and not simply on speed. Every part of *Terra Nova* challenges students to apply basic skills and to interpret, synthesize and evaluate information- all essential skills for the twenty-first century. I am providing you with grade equivalent scores from the spring of 2011.

	Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics	Total
Grade 2	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.8
Grade 3	5.5	6.9	5.6	5.9
Grade 4	6.7	7.4	5.7	6.3
Grade 5	7.9	7.1	7.1	7.2
Grade 6	12.2	13.0	10.2	11.5
Grade 7	12.9	12.9	11.4	12.9
Grade 8	12.8	12.9	11.8	12.5

National Catholic Education Association ACRE Assessment for Catholic School Students

As mandated by the Diocese of Pittsburgh School Office, each year religion teachers in our school administer the *Assessment of Catholic Religious Education* (ACRE) to students in grades 5 and 8. The standardized ACRE test provides an overall picture of the catechetical education efforts at our school.

Excerpts from ACRE administration guide...

The ACRE test was developed following a carefully crafted content specification based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the most recent catechetical documents. By defining key concepts to be evaluated, the content specifications assist educators in determining how well their total religious education program aligns with the assessment. Because it is built around the core essentials of the faith, ACRE is an evaluative instrument that can easily be used by schools and religious education programs across the country.

By integrating "head" knowledge with the desires of the heart, that is, personal beliefs, attitudes, practices and perceptions, ACRE offers a profile of faith formation that is well integrated. Moreover, ACRE is unique in that it is the only assessment that gathers data at the national level for the purpose of helping catechetical leaders improve the total catechetical program.

The Faith Knowledge portion of the ACRE Assessment is designed to measure the extent to which individuals and groups have mastered information from eight identified religious education domains.

The domains are: **I. God:** Father , Son , Holy Spirit; **II. Church,** One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic; **III. Liturgy and Sacraments;** **IV. Revelation, Scripture and Faith;** **V. Life of Christ:** Personal Morality and Catholic Social Teaching; **VI. Church History;** **VII. Prayer and Religious Practices ;** **VIII. Catholic Faith Literacy**

% Correct	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.
Grade 5	100%	100%	100%	100%	88%	96%	96%	92%
Grade 8	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	94%	100%	90%

These percentages include Catholic and non-Catholic Students.