



September 23, 2020

Dear SJA Families,

We hope that all is well with each family. We pray for our students and families every day. I want to make parents aware of an important schedule change. Per the Archdiocese of Baltimore Department of Catholic Schools, all schools will be **closed on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**. There will be no Extended Care on that day. Please see the attached letter.

### 2020-2020 Archdiocese of Baltimore Income Survey

The Archdiocese of Baltimore will be using a google forms survey to collect family income data for the 2020-21 school year. This safe and secure electronic income survey will automatically collect a family's data as they complete the survey. Collecting family income data is a requirement of MSDE and we must do so annually. The AOB has worked in conjunction with each county in the development of the survey and it meets each county's reporting requirements. The survey takes approximate 2 minutes to complete and must be completed for **each** student. It is **very important** that you do this because it determines the level of funding for all federal and state programs, all of which help to decrease tuition for your family (Safety & Security Grant, Aging Schools Grant, Textbook & Technology funding, Title I, Title IV, and Title II).

**2020-21 Income Survey Link:** [Click here](#)

Next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, we will be administering the **Scantron** Performance Series Assessment (Math, Reading, Language) online for **all** students in grades 2 through 8. Attached is detailed information regarding this assessment which is designed to measure student growth. The Fall assessment will provide benchmark scores for each student and help teachers plan to strengthen concepts and skills that have not been mastered. The test will be given at the beginning of the day. As always, please make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. Students will take the test in the winter and spring also.

We will have a dress down day to support *Conquer Chiara* this Friday, **September 25<sup>th</sup>**. We lost a dear staff member several years ago as a result of surgery complications from Chiara malformation. Her family supports our school and has established the Pesa Scholarship fund. Our SJA Butterfly Waystation is dedicated to Heidi-Donnelly Pesa. Please let your students know that at least \$1 donation is needed to participate and all rules on the last page of the handbook apply. [Out of Uniform](#)

Don't forget to order from Charleston Wrap! There are some awesome gifts in the catalogue that come in time for the holidays. You will be supporting the Home & School Association which helps to provide all that is needed for our students. (Flyer and brochure are attached)

Individual Picture Day is scheduled for students on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. You will receive information and a schedule prior to that date. The students may come in "dress up" clothes or their uniform on that day.

Peace and all good,  
Mrs. Ginger Bahr, Principal  
[vbahr@stjoanarc.org](mailto:vbahr@stjoanarc.org)





September 23, 2020

Dear St. Joan of Arc Families,

I pray this letter finds you doing well and that the school year is off to a great start for your family. As I reflect on the start of the new school year, I am truly grateful for our ability to offer both in-person and virtual instruction to our students. When I enter the classrooms, I see the smiles behind the masks. The joy is undeniable! Students are happy to be back in the classroom and reunited with their teachers and friends. They are excited to participate in class and engage with their classmates learning from home. It has been impressive to see the adaptability of our students and staff during these extraordinary times.

I am especially grateful to our outstanding faculty and staff who have worked so tirelessly to deliver a quality Catholic education to our in-person and remote learners, while ensuring our safety and social distancing protocols are adhered to. Their dedication and commitment really speaks to the caliber of educators here at St. Joan of Arc School.

To recognize the remarkable efforts of the Catholic school educators in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Archbishop William E. Lori, and the leadership from the Department of Catholic Schools will close all Catholic schools on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> to give our faculty and staff (and students too) a day to relax and recharge. Coincidentally, it will also be the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary and an opportunity for us to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for her love and protection.

I realize this announcement may cause an inconvenience for your family, but hope you understand the necessity. It is important that we take care of our faculty and staff, who give so much to our students and families each day.

Thank for your partnership and commitment to Catholic education.

Peace and all good,

Mrs. Virginia P. Bahr  
Principal  
St. Joan of Arc School  
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Aberdeen, Maryland 21001  
Phone (410)272-1387  
Fax (410)272-1959  
[vbahr@stjoanarc.org](mailto:vbahr@stjoanarc.org)





Catholic  
Schools

ARCHDIOCESE of BALTIMORE

## A Parent's Guide to Performance Series

- The Archdiocese of Baltimore's Department of Catholic Schools is using Performance Series by Scantron this year as our diagnostic and placement tool for Grades 2-8.
- The Performance Series assessments make it easy for your child's teachers to identify areas of strength and areas for growth. The new suite of assessments will provide teachers with detailed information that will inform their daily instruction. Overall, teachers will use the data from these assessments to:
  - identify your child's ability levels.
  - demonstrate academic growth over time.
  - place your child in the appropriate instructional group.
  - identify gaps in knowledge and skill acquisition.



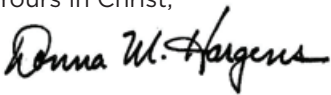
Dear Parents / Guardians,

The information found on the subsequent pages will introduce you to the new standardized testing program for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. During the 2020-21 academic year, all students in grades 2-8 will complete a reading, language, and mathematics assessment in the fall, winter, and spring. In the spring, students in grades 3, 5, and 7 will complete science and social studies assessments. These assessments are shorter than the Iowa and CogAT, so the total amount of time testing will be comparable to previous years. Since testing in the spring of 2020 was canceled due to school closure, it is essential that we assess students this fall to determine potential content knowledge and skill gaps.

Further communication about the test will take place gradually throughout the year. Expect details on testing dates and results to come from your child's teacher and/or principal.

This decision was made by a team of leaders in the Department of Catholic Schools and principals across the Archdiocese. All schools were consulted on the decision and we are all excited about the value that the new platform will provide.

Yours in Christ,



Dr. Donna Hargens  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Archdiocese of Baltimore



## What is Performance Series®?

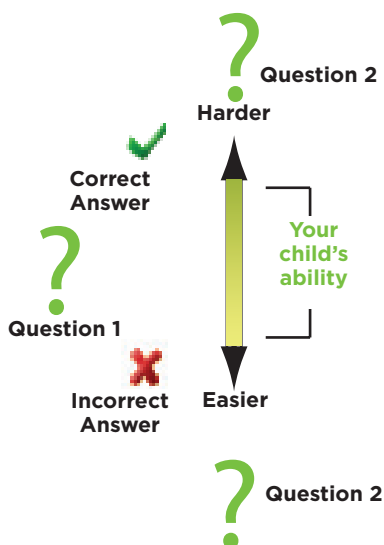
Performance Series is an online computer-adaptive test that adjusts to your child's instructional levels based on his or her responses to questions. Unlike other assessments, Performance Series is norm-referenced and completely computer-based, and all test results are available to teachers and administrators immediately.

All tests begin in relation to your child's current grade level the first time he or she takes a test in that subject. For those students who tested previously, the next test taken starts at a difficulty level where the student left off at the end of the last test. All scores are used for instructional grouping and to show growth and progress over time toward academic goals.

Computer-adaptive testing works by presenting questions that adjust based on the student's answers. Questions get slightly easier when a student answers incorrectly and slightly more challenging when a student answers correctly. Due to the adaptive nature of the test, each student will have a unique testing experience that will more accurately measure your child's instructional level.

### Why is this helpful to me?

- Unique tests matched to your child's instructional level more accurately determine his or her next steps in the classroom.
- Results from these tests provide information to help you understand your child's growth academically, through this year and across years.



### Why is this helpful to my child's teacher?

- Immediate results mean teachers can adjust instruction more quickly to help your child master important concepts.
- Educational materials can be customized by group or individual student based on score results, which helps teachers improve learning outcomes.
- Detailed reports allow teachers to evaluate current or new teaching strategies against the scores for the class and make adjustments as needed for any skills and/or concepts that may need re-teaching.

### When are the tests given?

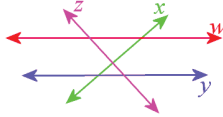
The tests are administered three (3) times per year in reading, mathematics, and language arts for grades 2–8. As a result of the computer-based model, students will spend less total time testing than previously seen with paper and pencil tests that took up to a week of instructional time.

# What Subject Areas and Units Are Covered?

## Mathematics

Look at the diagram, then answer the question.

Which lines appear to be parallel?



### Units:

- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Data Analysis & Probability
- Number & Operations

## Reading

Braille is one of the most commonly used systems of reading and writing for people who are blind. Louis Braille invented it in 1834, when he was only fifteen years old. Louis had been blind since he was three. He learned to read by touching letters engraved in wood. It was a very



What do the following three events have in common?

- Braille used in the United States
- Braille officially adopted by the United States
- Braille adopted as universal code for English

### Units:

- Vocabulary
- Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Long Passage

## Language Arts

Which word fits best in this sentence?

I was very hungry, \_\_\_\_\_ I could not eat the squid.

- A. yet
- B. and
- C. or
- D. for



### Units:

- Capitalization
- Parts of Speech
- Punctuation
- Sentence Structure

# What Do the Scores Mean to Me and My Child?

## Scaled Score

The Performance Series tests use a scaled score as an estimate of your child's instructional level, which is independent of grade level. The scaled score spans across all grade levels and all tests, so teachers and parents are able to monitor growth and progress in a subject over time. If you think of the scaled score as an "educational yardstick" you can then measure your child's growth from fall to spring in one school year or from year to year. Along with a scaled score per test, there are other ways to measure a student's growth and progress as well as how your child's score compares to others in his or her grade level. You can see a sample of the scores in the Parent Summary Report below.

### Parent Summary Report

**Student Name**

**Catholic School**

**Grade 4**

**ID: 1234**

**Language Arts Performance**

Current Score from: 5/16/17 10:32 a.m. 00:00:00

**Scaled Score: 2684**      **NPR: 88**

**Performance: Above Expectations**

**Current Year Gains: +23**

**Math Performance**

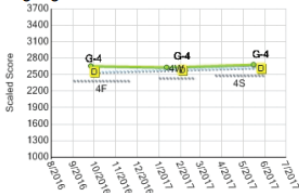
Current Score from: 5/18/17 9:08 a.m. 00:00:00

**Scaled Score: 2639**      **NPR: 81**

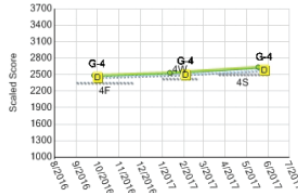
**Performance: Above Expectations**

**Current Year Gains: +151**

**Language Arts Trends**



**Math Trends**



## Gains

Gains refer to the number of scaled score points between one test and another in the same subject. Gains are shown in the trend line on the student profile. Teachers and parents can look at a full year of growth for a child and see if that child "grew" at the same pace as other students who tested similarly in the fall in Scantron's national norm group.

## National Percentile Ranking (NPR)

The National Percentile Ranking score (NPR) compares your child's scaled score to the scores of his or her grade level peers in Scantron's national norm group. For example, if your child has an NPR of 74, your child's score is above 74% of his or her peers in the same grade level in the national norm group.

## Performance Rating

The performance rating represents your child's rating in the context of the Scantron-defined set of performance bands by scaled score range. There are four (4) bands in the set, each one representing an NPR quartile.

## What Else Should I Know?

### Suggested Learning Objectives (SLOs)

The Scantron skills that are measured in the Performance Series tests are aligned to the custom standards selected by the diocese. These skills appear on reports as Suggested Learning Objectives by unit for your child and are individualized based on your child's test experience. The scaled score works in tandem with the diocesan standards to determine where to focus your child's learning.

### Are the tests timed?

No, children are allowed as much time as needed to take the test.

### Do all students see the same test?

All children see the same topic areas, but all children do not see the same test questions, because Performance Series is computer-adaptive—each test is unique for each child.

### How many test items does each student receive?

The test is online and computer-adaptive, so each child receives a unique test and the number of items may vary. There is no set number of questions. The average number of questions in a testing session is about 50.





# St. Joan of Arc School

## We Need Your Help!

Only with the help of SJA Families & Friends like you will our school raise the extra resources we need.  
Thank you for doing your part and sharing your time to help our students!

*All proceeds from this fundraiser will help improve the technology, innovation lab & bring new resources into our library/school. All students will benefit from this fundraiser.*

## How can I do my part? **Participate!**

**Our Goal:**  
**\$5,000.00**

## Share the catalog(s)!

Collect orders from family, friends, co-workers & neighbors

- Please make checks payable to St. Joan of Arc HSA.
- Return all money and the top 2 copies of the order form by the order deadline date –see above!
- Please DO NOT collect sales tax for any orders that are sent into school.
- Online orders will ship directly to the customer. \$85 or more, shipping is free! Must pay sales tax!
- **No door-to-door sales without adult supervision – safety first!**
- Contact Jamie Ayd @ [theyayds@verizon.net](mailto:theyayds@verizon.net) 410-241-6035

**Order Deadline**  
**10/12**

## Shop online and invite friends, too!

Invite friends and family (even if they're out of town)



**Step 1: REGISTER** your student at [www.charlestonwrapstore.com](http://www.charlestonwrapstore.com) (use school ID, see below)



**Step 2:** Use our **Easy-Email-Invite Generator** to invite out-of-town friends & family to shop and support!  
Plus, share your unique invite links via text and social media.



**Step 3: WIN A PRIZE TOMORROW** when you send out 10, 15, and 20 email invites!



Student Registration

**Our School ID:**  
**20044**

\*Online orders are subject to shipping and sales tax. \*FREE shipping available, see online for details.

*Charleston Wrap*<sup>®</sup>

BETTER PRODUCTS. BETTER FUNDRAISING.



# ATTENTION! Please REGISTER NOW for St. Joan of Arc School's fundraiser!

**It's super easy!** Please help support our fundraiser by following the steps below to register online today. When you register, we'll know you're committed to supporting our fundraiser and helping us reach our goals. To help our organization even more, send 10 email invitations to friends & family and spread the word about our need for help. With over 2,500 gift ideas, supporters can shop and check-off their holiday gift-list, all while supporting our important cause.

**Will you follow the instructions below and register today?** It's easy, it's simple, and it's important!

## Here's how to register today and help us spread the word!

Invite friends and family (even if they're out of town), online orders ship directly to the purchaser!

**Organization ID:**

**20044**



**Step 1: REGISTER** at [www.charlestonwrapstore.com](http://www.charlestonwrapstore.com)  
(use organization ID to the left)



**Step 2: Use our Email-Invite Generator** to invite out-of-town friends & family to shop and support! Plus, share your unique invite links via text and social media.



Participant Registration

*Ultra-Heavy Gift Wrap*



*Personalization*



*Holiday Décor*



*Kitchen & Home*

