

St. Mary School's New Student Assessment Program

Dear Parent(s),

Welcome to St. Mary's School! The new student assessment program is designed for students entering the first through eighth grades. The focus is to assess the incoming student's academic strengths and challenges. Emotional, behavioral, and social areas are also considered. The goal is to help make the student's transition a positive experience by developing strategies to meet the unique needs of the student.

Initially, parents who wish to enroll their children contact the school office. The principal will meet with the parents to discuss school programs and gather background information. The assessment will be conducted before or after meeting with the principal. The psychologist will contact the parents to set up the session (one session, lasting approximately one hour).

As part of the process, parents complete a questionnaire addressing the student's medical conditions, strengths/interests, skill levels, ability to work independently/organizational skills, social interactions, previous or current support services, and any other key information the parent believes is important to convey.

The direct assessment with the child evaluates reading (phonics, comprehension), math (reasoning, computation), and writing (spelling, sentence/paragraph construction) skills.

Releases may be obtained to contact such individuals as the child's current teachers and/or involved support professionals. These contacts often provide valuable information and offer specific suggestions for helping the student make the transition.

The information is reviewed in terms of age/grade level performance, and mastery of specific skills. The student may be given general feedback regarding his/her performance. The psychologist may also discuss with the student grade level expectations, homework and organizational issues, and suggestions for building peer relationships. The student is encouraged to ask questions and may be given a tour of the school if possible. Parents are informed of the results immediately, or as soon as practical. Recommendations may also be given. The results will be discussed with the principal and teachers.

At times special considerations may be noted. The results may indicate that there is a high probability that the student's learning, emotional, or behavioral needs would not be met at St. Mary School. The parents are encouraged to pursue an alternate school setting. The results may indicate that, though the student may be enrolled, special support services such as remedial reading, speech/language services, special homework programming, frequent follow-up conferences, behavioral contracts, further assessment, private tutoring, or private counseling may be beneficial. Under such circumstances the student may be enrolled on a probationary basis.

Joseph J. Vesper, Ph.D.
Psychologist
St. Mary School

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New Student Parent Permission/Questionnaire

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ For Grade: _____

Previous School: _____

Parent's Name: Mother: _____ Father: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Other: Mother: _____ Father: _____

_____ I give permission for my child to participate in the new student assessment program.

Parent Signature

Date

1. Please describe any significant medical issues your child has previously experienced, or currently experiences. List any current medications your child is taking.

2. Please describe your child's strengths and interests.

4. Please describe your child's ability to work independently (i.e. follow directions, complete tasks), and organizational skills.

5. Please describe your child's interactions with others (i.e. a joiner, shy, leader etc.).

6. Please list any support services/programs (i.e. special education, speech/language, remedial programs, counseling, enrichment) your child has received.

7. Please list any questions you have, or information you feel is important for your child's teacher to know to better work with your child.

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