

## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like you all to know that St. John Paul II is one of 4 schools in the Diocese of Norwich that is piloting a new assessment from a company called NWEA. We will be piloting the MAP Growth program with our middle school students next week and at the end of May. These tests are designed to be administered 3 times a year. These tests measure what students know and what they are ready to learn next. MAP Growth creates a personalized assessment experience that accurately measures performance- whether a student performs on, above, or below grade level. Timely test reports will help our teachers teach and our students learn. The teachers will be able to use the test results to differentiate instruction and pinpoint individual student needs. These tests will test our students against the Connecticut state standards and our curriculum. Eventually all grades will be assessed using NWEA Map growth.

Students in grades 1 through 5 will be administered the Iowa Test of Basic Skills as in the past. These test a student's general knowledge. Students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 will also be administered the CoGAT, which measures a students' cognitive ability. Our test window this year is April 1-12. Our kindergarten class will be administered the Stanford Achievement Test during that same test window.

I ask that you please ensure that your child gets proper rest, eats a good breakfast, and most of all is present in school during this testing cycle. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the testing program.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Larry Fitzgerald, BS, MS, 6<sup>th</sup> Year

Principal