



November 11, 2020

Dear OLGC Parents and Guardians,

OLGC's strategic plan for improvement includes four essential elements, in alignment with the Archdiocese of Detroit's [Unleashing Our Catholic Schools](#), to make our school among the very best in the nation: we must be proudly Catholic, academically excellent, accessible to all and sustainable for the future. As OLGC Parish School works to attain academic excellence, OLGC remains committed to increasing student achievement, monitoring student growth, and providing strong differentiated instruction to ALL students. These efforts support the Archdiocese's mission to "unlock students' full potential." In an effort to ensure that all teachers have effective tools to meet the needs of *all* the learning in their classrooms, OLGC has embraced a computer-adaptive assessment (CAA).

Brief History of CAA at OLGC

OLGC Parish School was chosen as a pilot school for a MAP® Growth™ test from NWEA® during the 2018-19 school year. During the 2019-2020 school year, the Archdiocese made the [announcement](#) to move forward with a CAA. The OLGC School Improvement Team made the decision for the MAP Growth test to take the place of the IOWA assessment our students took in previous years. This year, the AOD announced a new partnership with another CAA called the Renaissance Star (STAR360). OLGC implemented this assessment upon students return to school this September.

What is Renaissance Star (STAR360)?

Renaissance Star are screening assessments available in early literacy, reading, and math. A screening assessment is a brief, diagnostic assessment that is given to students in identified grade levels to determine students' current skill levels in order to identify gaps in learning. In addition, the use of this assessment data helps teachers examine the effectiveness of classroom instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Typically, these assessments are given three times a year in September, February, and May to monitor student growth over time.

Who Gets Tested?

- **All K - 1 students** complete the Early Literacy Renaissance 360 screener
- **All 1-8 students** complete the Math and Reading Renaissance 360 screeners

Benefits of STAR360

Star Reading and Math assessments are unique in that they are **computer-adaptive**, which means the test adjusts to each *individual student's ability level*. If your child answers a question at his/her grade level correctly, the next question is more challenging, and vice versa. These results provide a more complete picture of what your child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level. On average, Renaissance Star assessments take no more than 25 minutes to complete. Since Renaissance Star tests provide immediate and accurate information about your child's learning, your child's teacher will know exactly what content your child needs for instruction, intervention, or enrichment and will be able to set personalized learning goals for him/her. In addition, aligning this assessment tool with other schools across the Archdiocese will allow for comparison data.

For more information about this assessment, please visit our school website or visit www.renaissance.com/services/parent-resources/

I am confident that the implementation of this assessment will best serve our students. Thank you for partnering with us to give your child the gift of an excellent Catholic education. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher or me.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hunt, Principal

Mission Statement:

We exist to offer a life-changing encounter with Jesus and equip leaders to transform the culture.