August 31, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In April 2017, St. Linus once again administered the ACT Aspire summative test to all students in grades 3-8. The ACT Aspire assesses students’ academic proficiency in five academic areas: English, Reading, Math, Science and Writing. Students completed the exam over four mornings at their school.

ACT Aspire is aligned to the rigorous curriculum standards that inform classroom instruction in all classrooms across the Archdiocese. More information about the ACT Aspire, including grade-level test exemplars for each subject test, can be found on [www.discoveractaspire.org](http://www.discoveractaspire.org).

The Archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Schools is pleased with the results from the administration of the ACT Aspire test. Please note the Aspire test assesses student understanding of concepts and asks students to demonstrate their proficiency with grade-level skills in a manner that may be different from other standardized tests your child has taken in the past. Additionally, ACT Aspire engages all students in a written response to a grade-appropriate prompt. Assessment of writing has high value for our college bound students and this competency was not a part of the *TerraNova* test that was administered in our Catholic schools in the recent past.

A *sample* of student performance results for all St. Linus students in grade 4 for each of the content areas tested by ACT Aspire is provided in the following table. Terms found in the table are also explained below. **Complete scores for each grade level can be found on the website.**

* **Aspire Benchmark**: This numeric score indicates the benchmark that indicates grade-level proficiency.
* **St Linus Average**: This numeric score reflects the average score of the students in grade 4 last school year.
* **National Average**: This numeric score reflects the average score for all students nationwide who took the ACT Aspire in the spring of 2017.
* **Readiness Level**: Scores for each subject test area reflect the average performance of all students in this grade level categorized into one of the following levels: *Exceeding*, *Ready*, *Close* or *In Need of Support.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Spring-2017** | **Grade** | **English** | **Math** | **Reading** | **Science** | **Writing** |
| **Aspire Benchmark** | 4 | 417 | 416 | 417 | 420 | 428 |
| **St. Linus** | 4 | **425** | **417** | **418** | **421** | **425** |
| **Nat’l Average** | 4 | 420 | 416 | 415 | 418 | 424 |
| **Readiness Level** | 4 | Exceeding  | Ready  | Ready | Ready | Close |

We have provided individual student performance results for ACT Aspire with this letter. St. Linus grade level scores vs. the National Average are available on the website as well as a booklet on how to read your child’s score. We are fortunate to be able to use the data from these tests to inform our curriculum and teaching for this school year. While it is interesting to note the national average for each subject level test, and the fact that we exceed that average it is important to acknowledge the performance level of students in relationship to the Aspire benchmark for that grade level.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child’s education.

With best wishes for a successful new school year,

Margaret M. Hayes
Principal