



Terra Nova Testing 2009 - 2010

Terra Nova testing is scheduled to begin with *InView* testing (Gr 3-7) on Thursday of this week, and continue for all grades (K-7) through the week of March 8th. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Office of Catholic Education (*OCE*), in conjunction with CTB McGraw, has worked extremely hard to make improvements to the Terra Nova testing to insure that it reflects the rigor and relevance of our curriculum. As explained by the OCE, we have arrived at the end of a five year assessment cycle. We have been using the Terra Nova *Second Edition*, which has been based upon 2000 norms. In order to move forward with teaching in a rigorous and relevant mode, it is necessary to move forward, as well, in our assessment. This year's Terra Nova *Multiple Assessments*, therefore, is based on updated norms, and provides us with the opportunity to assess knowledge through a combined format of multiple choice questions and constructed-response questions. Through *Multiple Assessments*, students are presented with questions requiring a constructed-response, i.e. questions that offer students the opportunity to construct their own answers in a variety of ways, including filling in blanks in charts or webs, writing short responses to brief questions, and writing longer responses that are evaluated for both reading content and language usage and mechanics. The test was designed to give students the broadest opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and use of skills considered essential for effective communication. *Multiple Assessments* will be used to test Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

This is good news for all of us, as the use of constructed response items supports our efforts for Rigorous and Relevant instruction. The standardized testing, therefore, is catching up to the higher level of thinking/higher depth of knowledge that we are cultivating in your daughter(s)!

Terra Nova Testing will be administered to
Students in Grade K-7.

The beginning of each day will be devoted to taking a portion of the test. Normal class instruction will then take place. This revised schedule allows daily effective instruction to occur after a shorter period of testing.

It is important to remember that standardized test scores represent achievement in particular areas at one particular time and must be reviewed together with the student's actual classroom work and other factors. The information gathered from this testing is only one of the many variables that contribute to improved learning.

This is an exciting time for all of us as we attempt to learn everything possible about your daughter(s) and continue to engage her (them) in *the inculcation of a love for life-long learning, and the development of critical thinking skills.*

Thank you for being partners with us in the process!

Sincerely and Gratefully,

Ms Jane A. McCool
Standardized Testing Coordinator