



**Catholic Schools Office**  
Archdiocese of Boston

September 14, 2015

Dear Families,

I am writing, first and foremost, to welcome you and to celebrate the new academic year. Together, we are committed to strengthening our community and to creating academically rigorous, faith-filled Catholic schools. With these goals in mind, the Archdiocese is pleased to announce a partnership with NWEA and to be implementing a new set of assessments this fall.

As a leader in educational assessment and a not-for-profit organization, NWEA is well positioned to collaborate with children, teachers and families in the Archdiocese. The Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP tests, are completely online, designed to measure students' individual growth, and offers schools immediate access to the results. The MAP assessments focus on student's academic achievement in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science.

During the first year, K-8 schools and select high schools across the Archdiocese will administer the MAP assessments in the fall (October) and spring (May). At the early grades (K-1), students will complete the MAP for Primary Grades, which focus on reading and mathematics. Students in grades 2-8, and select high schools, will administer the MAP in the subject areas of mathematics, reading, and language usage. Individualized reports will be shared with families and used to shape instruction during the academic year. In the spring, students will be assessed again and be presented with the opportunity to demonstrate their growth over time. Through these adaptive and individualized tests, we can tailor the learning environment to better meet the needs of our students and share useful data with families.

As Pope Francis has shared with all of us, "Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life." Thank you for collaborating with us this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy P. Mears".

Kathy P. Mears  
Superintendent