



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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Dear Catholic School Families,

As you know, students in grades three through eight participate in New York State assessments in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics every year. These exams are developed in accordance with state learning standards and offer the opportunity for children to assess the skills and content they have acquired.

This spring, to begin the process of incrementally preparing schools for a statewide transition to computer-based testing in public and nonpublic schools, **the Archdiocese of New York will administer the grade five ELA exam on the computer. While this only immediately pertains to fifth grade students/families**, we are sharing this exciting news with all grade levels to outline the plan for such practices in future years.

Implementing computer-based testing (CBT) in fifth grade this year moves our students and staff toward a full transition in all grades expected to be mandated by the State Education Department (SED) in the next few years. We will build off this experience by adding an additional class in math next year, thus familiarizing our schools with the process to prepare for participation in all grades. The exam will feature the exact same content as the paper version and provide benefits such as the ability to strike out answers students know are incorrect, allowing them to focus on the remaining choices.

Students are being prepared for the shift to CBT in the following ways:

- Schools will conduct practice exams in late February to measure student and school preparedness;
- SED has released sample questions (<https://ny.nextera.questarai.com/tds/#practice>) to illustrate what the exam will look and feel like; and
- Teachers are providing regular opportunities for students to work with digital tools and practice typing to enhance their ability to navigate the online testing environment.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education. I look forward to our mutual preparation for this transition to ensure student success.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. McNiff, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York

CC: Regional Superintendents
Dr. Susan Miller, Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and Staff Development