

EDUCATING PARENTS ABOUT THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Parents have a varying degree of knowledge about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Some parents have misconceptions, and are caught up in the discussions, without enough background knowledge to ask essential questions. Here are 3 facts that all parents should know:

FACT # 1

The Diocese of Covington / IHM has **not adopted** CCSS. We will review and **adapt** to fit the needs of our schools and students, while emphasizing our Catholic Identity.

FACT # 2

The CCSS is NOT a curriculum. The CCSS ARE established goals and expectations that are measurable for student mastery. Catholic Schools are bound by Canon Law to deliver education that is rigorous and relevant and **surpass** public education.

FACT #3

The CCSS are NOT a federal mandate and were NOT created by the federal government. The standards stemmed from a state-led effort organized by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Teachers, parents, and school administrators all provided input into the development of the CCSS. Most states have taken the Common Core Standards and adapted them at a state level. Many questions have been asked about the Common Core State Standards and whether the Diocese of Covington is going to adopt these standards. The simple answer is no; because we are a parochial school in the state of Kentucky, we are not held to the same restrictions or mandates the public schools currently have. The Department of Catholic Schools is currently reviewing the Common Core State Standards in English, Language Arts, and Math

The CCSS are aligned with:

- a) All textbooks (both hardback and ebooks) published for schools after 2010.
- b) All private and state assessments are aligned to the CCSS. (i.e.; ACT, SAT, PSAT, EXPLORE, PLAN, and ITBS ASSESSMENTS.)

The CCSS are standards of learning that each student should be proficient in at the END of that grade level. They DO NOT dictate how to teach, what else to teach, instructional strategies, or what instructional materials to be used. For example, one such standard in our new draft of the math curriculum framework states that by the end of 2nd grade a student should be able to "Name the value of any digit in a three digit number (i.e. In the number 374, the 7 = 70)." A curriculum then refers to the how, when, and where that standard or concept is taught. Using our curriculum framework, a certified teacher responsible for that subject, along with the principal, then decides when a particular standard/concept is taught during the school year and what tools, books, apps, or papers are used to teach that standard/concept.

The Diocese of Covington, through the Department of Technology and Curriculum, writes its own curriculum that each Diocesan school must follow. This curriculum is rich with content and infused with Catholic Identity. This allows each school to be able to have strong guidelines in both academic and religious teachings. Catholic Schools have a long-standing commitment to academic excellence that is rooted in faith-based teachings and mission. These standards do not compromise the Catholic Identity or Catholic education in any of its schools.

The CCSS ARE established goals and expectations that are measurable for student mastery. These goals are rigorous in order to prepare our students for their future. The CCSS prompt students to exude critical and analytical thinking skills, and to look at a variety of ways to problem solve. The standards dwell on "Conceptual Understanding" at each grade level. This means that standards are learned at a deeper level rather than at a surface level. Because of the depth of the standards, the breadth of the curricular area has narrowed. Students from Pre- K-12 have identical standards mastering different facets of that standard at each grade level.

For more information, please see our [Common Core State Standards](#) page. The page is there to help bridge the gaps in understanding how the Common Core State Standards came to be and what is included in those standards. For additional information concerning CCSS and Catholic Schools go to www.catholicschoolsstandards.org.