

# Saint Joseph Academy



A d A s t r a P e r A s p e r a

September 5, 2012

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, September 18-20, students in grades 7 – 10 will be taking the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, and we will be following the schedules outlined below. **Please note that testing begins at 8:00 AM every day.**

- Tuesday, September 18: Grades 7-10 will test beginning at 8:00 AM. No classes for juniors and seniors.
- Wednesday, September 19: Grades 7 – 10 will test beginning at 8:00 AM. No classes for junior and seniors.
- Thursday, September 20: Students in grades 7 and 9 only will test beginning at 8:00 AM. No classes for students in grades 8, 10, 11, or 12.
- Monday and Friday, September 17 and 21, will be regular school days for all students.
- Students who are testing will be dismissed each day at the conclusion of the test. No lunch will be served on test days.
- The testing schedule for students in grades 7 through 10 will be as follows:

## **Tuesday, September 18: Grades 7-10**

- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade: 8:00 AM – 11:45 AM
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade extended time: 8:00 AM – 12:45 PM (bring sack lunch)
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade extended time: 8:00 AM – 1:20 PM (bring sack lunch)
- 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade: 8:00 AM – 11:15 AM
- 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade extended time: 8:00 AM – 12:35 PM (bring sack lunch)

## **Wednesday, September 19: Grades 7-10**

- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade: 8:00 AM – 12:05 PM
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade extended time: 8:00 AM – 1:10 PM (bring sack lunch)
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade extended time: 8:00 AM – 1:50 PM (bring sack lunch)
- 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade: 8:00 AM – 10:50 AM (**BRING CALCULATORS**)
- 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade extended time: 8:00 AM - 11:55 AM (no lunch break) (**BRING CALCULATORS**)

## **Thursday, September 20: Grades 7 and 9 only**

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade extended time: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM (bring sack lunch)
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade: 8:00 AM – 10:40 AM
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade extended time: 8:00 AM – 11:35 AM (no lunch break)

Please help your child perform successfully on the test by following these guidelines:

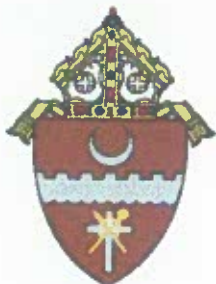
- Please see that students get a good night's rest before the test and eat breakfast each morning.
- Students should bring sharpened #2 pencils with erasers for the test.
- Students in grades 9 and 10 should bring calculators on Wednesday. Students in grades 7 and 8 do NOT use calculators
- Students should bring something to read in case they finish the test early.

This exam is an essential tool for the academic progress of your student at Saint Joseph Academy. Therefore, it is imperative that your student take this exam. Students who are absent during these exam dates will be rescheduled for makeup exams at a cost of \$130 which covers the cost of proctoring for the exam. Thank you for your cooperation. We appreciate your help in our efforts to encourage your child's academic success.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lori Trott  
Principal

Mrs. Lucy Williams  
Dean of Middle Division



## Diocese of Brownsville Catholic Pastoral Center

Office of the Superintendent

August 21, 2012

Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2012-2013 academic school year. The Diocese of Brownsville remains committed to our Catholic schools' mission of providing a unique environment in which all students can experience the support and encouragement of a faith community. Our administrators and faculty are dedicated to providing each student with the educational experiences that encourage academic excellence, develop the whole person, foster life-long love of learning and promote an awareness of the needs of the community. In doing so, the administrators of our Catholic schools in cooperation with the Catholic school office, have embarked on two initiatives for the coming year:  
*Curriculum and Standardized Testing.*

This year our schools will work together to incorporate new curriculum standards that engage all students to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. This will ensure success as they meet demands of the world around them. In addition, as part of our academic program, our schools will administer a standardized test to assess student achievement. This standardized test is a norm-referenced test which means that a student's score helps measure the student's ability to perform in such areas as reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. Students in grades kinder – 10<sup>th</sup> grade will take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) which is published by Riverside Publishing.

In conjunction with our curriculum initiative, our students this academic school year will be administered the ITBS in September of 2012. Traditionally, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Brownsville have tested in the spring of each academic year. However, with administration in the fall, each campus will use test data to tailor the curriculum around the students' needs. Of course, student results will be shared with parents earlier in the school year. This promotes the essential partnership of school and parents. My expectation is that each campus administrator will open up the conversation between faculty, staff and parents so that the testing results will ensure academic growth of each student throughout the school year. Keeping with the tradition of "academic excellence" in our Catholic schools, I feel that these two initiatives will have a positive impact on all our students.

We appreciate your support as we implement these significant and positive changes in our overall program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your campus principal.

In Christ and Our Blessed Mother,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Lisette Allen".

V. Lisette Allen, M.Ed. M.A.  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Diocese of Brownsville

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## Diocese of Brownsville Catholic Pastoral Center

Office of the Superintendent

21 de agosto, 2012

Queridos padres:

Es un gran placer extenderles la bienvenida al año escolar 2012-2013. La Diócesis de Brownsville sigue comprometida con la misión de nuestras Escuelas Católicas de proveer un ambiente único en el cual todo estudiante pueda experimentar el apoyo y el estímulo de la comunidad de fe. Nuestros administradores y la facultad están dedicados a proveer cada estudiante con las experiencias educativas que estimulen la excelencia académica, fomenten el desarrollo íntegro y el amor a la ciencia por toda la vida, promoviendo interés por las necesidades de la comunidad. En el cumplimiento de estas metas, los administradores de nuestros colegios y la Oficina Diocesana de Escuelas Católicas han entablado dos iniciativas para el nuevo año escolar: *Plan de Estudios y Pruebas Estandarizadas*.

Este año, nuestras escuelas colaborarán en la incorporación de nuevas normas de estudio que inviten a todo estudiante a desarrollar habilidades del siglo veintiuno. Esto asegurará el éxito cuando se enfrenten a los retos que les rodean. Además, como parte de nuestro programa académico, nuestras escuelas administrarán pruebas estandarizadas para asesorar la habilidad del estudiante. Esta prueba estandarizada es una prueba a base de referencias de normas, es decir, la calificación del estudiante ayudará a determinar la habilidad del estudiante de cursar en áreas como lectura, idiomas, matemática, estudios sociales y ciencia. Estudiantes en grados kinder - 10º tomarán la Prueba Iowa de Habilidades Básicas (ITBS), publicada por Riverside Publishing.

En conjunto con nuestra iniciativa de Plan de Estudios, este año nuestros estudiantes tomarán el ITBS en septiembre, 2012. Tradicionalmente, las Escuelas Católicas en la Diócesis de Brownsville han administrado estos exámenes en la primavera de cada año escolar. Mas ahora, administrar la prueba en el otoño permitirá a cada escuela la oportunidad de acoplar el plan de estudio a las necesidades del estudiante. Los resultados de la prueba serán compartidos con ustedes los padres cuanto antes en el año escolar. Esta acción promoverá la asociación esencial entre padres y escuela. Mi expectativa es que cada administrador entablará una conversación entre la facultad, los empleados y los padres para que los resultados de esta prueba aseguren el crecimiento académico de cada estudiante a través del año escolar. Siguiendo con la tradición de "excelencia académica" en nuestras Escuelas Católicas, considero que estas dos iniciativas impactarán de forma positiva a todos nuestros estudiantes.

Agradecemos su apoyo al implementar estos cambios significantes y positivos en nuestro programa global. Si tiene alguna pregunta, sírvase comunicarse con su director de escuela particular.

En Cristo y María Santísima,

Superintendente de Escuelas Católicas

Diócesis de Brownsville