



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

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For Immediate Release

Catholic Elementary Students Complete i-Ready Assessments

New program for student assessments accelerate each student's personal growth

HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK – NOVEMBER 3, 2020 - The Catholic elementary schools of the Diocese of Rockville Centre put into use this academic year *i-Ready*, a new student assessment tool as part of the Morning Star Initiative's revitalization program. Students have just completed the first diagnostic phase.

The *i-Ready* assessment, which replaces the paper-based IOWA's and CogATs, is a computer administered diagnostic of reading and math skills for students from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. The *i-Ready* assessment helps teachers create personalized learning plans to accelerate the academic growth of each individual student. Students that are learning both in person and remotely will benefit from the implementation of *i-Ready*.

"The *i-Ready* diagnostic is a computer-based, adaptive assessment which measures student growth and tracks their progress throughout the course of the year, said Marian Mingo, MS - Assistant Superintendent for Administration, Department of Education. "It is a reliable growth measure that helps educators differentiate instruction and support a blended learning solution," continued Mingo. *i-Ready*, a national assessment tool from Curriculum Associates Inc., uses the New York State learning standards to create an assessment that identifies gap areas and helps each student reach their individual potential.

"The results of the diagnostic, which are being reviewed by educators now and will be shared with parents shortly, includes suggestions on resources a child's teacher can use to close any learning gaps or to further accelerate the progress of high achievers," said Lino Bracco, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction for the Department of Education. "The program's individualized instructional plans are easy to understand and direct teachers' instructional patterns," said Bracco.

"The *i-Ready* diagnostic, along with additions like the creation of the Diocese-wide Curriculum Leads Program, which groups teachers by subject expertise across schools to share best practices, are part of the Morning Star Initiative school revitalization program," said Dr. Kathleen Walsh, Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Rockville Centre. The Morning Star Initiative is a bold plan of Catholic evangelization and revitalization of Catholic elementary education. The Morning Star Initiative aims to position Catholic education for a bright future, with a community of strong, expanding, and sustainable schools spread across Long Island.



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The Morning Star Initiative establishes four pillars to renew and transform Catholic education on Long Island. The *i-Ready* assessments and Curriculum Leads Program are components of the third pillar:

- A Robustly Catholic Culture centered on the spiritual, intellectual, sacramental, moral and liturgical life of the Church;
- Safe and Supportive Communities recognizing the dignity and potential of everyone;
- **Academic Excellence built on a Catholic Faith-based model of individual growth and development;** and
- Catholic education is here to Stay to meet the changing needs of the community, and to ensure sufficient resources for an improved educational environment and the financial stability of the schools.