What is Performance Series®?

An exciting assessment tool, Scantron’s Performance Series, has been adopted for use as one of the tools to help identify your child’s abilities. You may be familiar with the paper-and-pencil bubble tests from Scantron—this assessment tool is from Scantron as well, but a different type of assessment. Because it is online and adapts, Performance Series adjusts to your child’s abilities.

Unlike other forms of assessment, Performance Series tests are completely computer-based and adjust to each child’s ability level. All tests begin in relation to your child’s current grade. As your child answers each question, however, the test adapts according to his or her response. Questions get easier when your child answers incorrectly and get more challenging when he or she answers correctly. This individualizes every testing experience and more accurately measures your child’s ability.

Why is this helpful to you?

• Unique tests matched to your child’s abilities more accurately determine his or her next steps in the classroom.
• Results from these tests provide information to help you understand your child’s growth academically, through this year and across years.

Why is this helpful to your child’s teacher?

• Immediate results mean they can adjust instruction more quickly to help your child master important concepts.
• Educational materials can be customized (based on the results for each student and group) which help teachers improve learning.
• Detailed reports allow teachers to evaluate current or new teaching strategies and programs.

The Diocese of Richmond Office of Catholic Education has adopted Performance Series by Scantron as their diagnostic and placement tool.

The Performance Series assessment makes it easy for your child’s teacher(s) to identify his or her progress—and find the diagnostic information they need to place your child academically and manage his or her instruction.

Performance Series is a web-based, computer-adaptive test that your school uses to:

• identify your child’s ability levels
• demonstrate academic growth over time
• place your child in the correct instructional programs
What Subject Areas Are Covered?

- **Mathematics**
  - Look at the diagram, then answer the question.
  - Which lines appear to be parallel?
  - Literature of geometric figures.

- **Geometry**
  - Find the value of the given expression. $\text{Given } \frac{AB}{AC} = \frac{AD}{AE} \text{, what statement below allows the SSS Postulate to directly prove that } \triangle ABC \cong \triangle AED$?

- **Reading Foundations**
  - Read the word. Match each word that matches the word.
  - Hat

- **Algebra**
  - Solve the following equation for $y$: $R = \frac{2y^2}{3}$.
  - Solve for $x$. Round to the nearest tenth.
  - $6.2x + 0.6 \approx 19.2$

What Do the Scores Mean to Me and My Child?

**Scaled Score (SS)**
The Scaled Score is a reliable estimate of your child’s ability* and is independent of grade level. Use this score to track progress over time, from fall to spring or year after year, as a type of educational yardstick.

The following are average score ranges for different testing sessions in the various subject areas.

**Reading**
- Fall: 1780-2220
- Winter: 1940-2353
- Spring: 2019-2498

**Mathematics**
- Fall: 1880-2327
- Winter: 1980-2222
- Spring: 2079-2318

**Standards Item Pool (SIP)**
SIP scores are a grade-specific translation of the Scaled Score, in relation to state and national standards. The overall SIP score represents your child’s projected understanding of grade level testing material.

**Gains**
Gains are simply the number of Scaled Score points by which your child has improved over time. Through the year, this can be used to gauge if he or she is ‘on track’ or not.

**Unit Score Ranges (USRs)**
Unit Score Ranges identify your child’s ability on a specific unit within a subject. The center line in the USR bar shows your child’s unit ability estimate, and the green bars show the highest and lowest scores your child might get if he or she took the test again.

**What Else Should I Know?**

**Does Performance Series align to my state standards?**
Yes, your diocese worked with Scantron to ensure that your state standards are used as the guide to assess your child.

**What units are covered?**

**Reading Foundations**
- Phonics
- Phonological Awareness
- Vocabulary
- Text Comprehension

**Reading**
- Vocabulary
- Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Long Passage

**Math (English and Spanish)**
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Data Analysis & Probability
- Number & Operations

**Geometry**
- Circles
- Congruence
- Expressing Properties with Equations
- Measurement and Dimension
- Modeling with Geometry
- Similarity, Right Triangles and Trigonometry

**Do all students see the same test?**
All children see the same topic areas, but all children do not see the same test question, because Performance Series is computer-adaptive—each test is unique for each child.

**How many test items does each student receive?**
The test is online and computer-adaptive, so each child receives a unique test and the number of items may vary. There is no set number of questions. The average number of questions in a testing session is about 50.

**Are the tests timed?**
No, children are allowed as much time as needed to take the test.

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* Directions for all tests are available in English and Spanish.

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* using the statistical Rasch model.