

PHILOSOPHY OF STUDENT EVALUATION - ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

"Evaluation occurs in a climate of respect and acceptance, looking to the development of the individual and to his/her potential. Instructional leaders in our Catholic Schools need to be aware of the variety of ways in which student progress can and should be assessed and to know the strengths and limitations of each method." (The Principal as Educational Leader, Department of Education, United States Catholic Conference.)

In order to evaluate learning effectively, it is critical that the Principal/teacher identify:

1. Have objectives been met;
2. What is evidence of proficiency.

The evaluation program includes not only diocesan-approved formal and standardized tests, but also product, process and performance assessments. Additional appropriate forms of evaluation will be selected by the local school/teachers and will be determined by subject/content area, developmental appropriateness, variation of learning modalities and applied learning strategies.

The schools of the Diocese of Harrisburg are expected to:

1. Schedule parent/teacher conferences for elementary parents once annually (preferably at the time of the first report card distribution) and offer conferences at each quarter at the request of any parent or teacher;
2. Provide clear and objective feedback to students and parents regarding student strengths and limitations;
3. Provide for individual student differences through varied methods/techniques of instruction and assessment;
4. Recognize that religious formation cannot be evaluated solely with educational assessment strategies.

Policy

Adopted: June 14, 1996

NCD/Bishop of Harrisburg