

## **Research Study Indicates High Achievement Levels and Value-Added Academic Growth for the Class of 2014**

In a recent research study ECRA Group Inc, a national educational research and consulting firm, analyzed and evaluated the Fall 2013 Stanford Achievement Test results for Diocese of Reno students in the Classes of 2014 through 2020 who participated in the Diocesan annual fall assessment program. This overview highlights some of the results for the Class of 2014.

### **At a summary level, there are three key findings from the study:**

- The Class of 2014 outperformed the nation in the areas of reading, language, mathematics, science and social studies in the fall 2013 testing.
- Group findings across five years of testing indicate that the longer students attend Diocesan schools, the better they do in outperforming the nation in the basic skills areas.
- Whether male or female, whether gifted, average, or in need of additional coaching and extra instructional intervention, this year's research study generally confirms the effectiveness of the instructional program in addressing varying student achievement levels.

The ECRA current year study for the Class of 2014 includes information for approximately 107 students who tested in grade 8. While there is some variability in student achievement levels across schools, on average, the Class of 2014 outperformed the nation in the test areas of reading, language, mathematics, science and social science. ***In fact, the average national percentile scores for the Class of 2014 in these areas were in the 74th to 83rd national percentile range, which is 24 to 33 percentile points higher than the national average.***

While the above information was based on the fall 2013 average performance levels of approximately 107 students in grade 8, a more in-depth analysis tracked 79 of these students who attended Diocese of Reno schools for each of the past 5 test years, i.e. from grade 4 in 2009 through grade 8 in 2013. This means that 74 % of the students in grade 8 who tested in the fall of 2013 attended Diocese of Reno Catholic Schools for the past 5 years.

Three different performance levels within this group of 79 students were evaluated in order to determine how well the instructional program addresses the academic needs of above average, average, and below average students.

***The value-added benefit of the Diocese of Reno instructional program is clearly evidenced for all three levels of learners as each group consistently outperformed similar students across the country in each of the five test areas:***

- Above average Diocese of Reno students generally scored 13-19 percentile points higher
- Average Diocese of Reno students generally scored 18-34 percentile points higher
- Below average Diocese of Reno students generally scored 28-40 percentile points higher

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