



Diocese of Richmond
Office of Catholic Education

A Parent's Guide to Performance Series

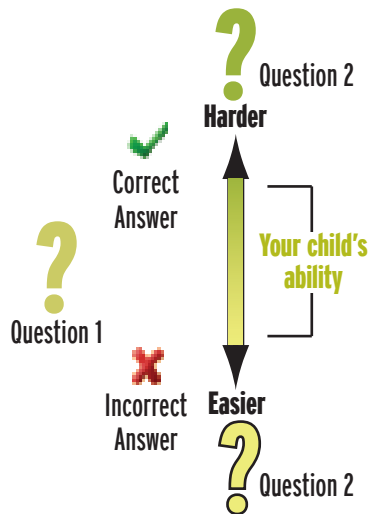
What is Performance Series®?

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.



SCANTRON™

For more information, visit us at
www.scantron.com or contact
your Scantron representative at
800-SCANTRON (722-6876) or
email sales@scantron.com.

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What Subject Areas Are Covered?

Mathematics*

Look at the diagram, then answer the question.

Which lines appear to be parallel?

Clasifica el siguiente triángulo.

Braille is one of the most commonly used systems of reading and writing for people who are blind. Louis Braille invented it in 1834, when he was only fifteen years old. Louis had been blind since he was three. He learned to read by touching letters engraved in wood. It was a very slow process and people could not use it to write. He had heard of the army using a twelve-dot system punched on cardboard to send communication to battlefields during the night. He adapted that system and created Braille, a six-dot system. The six dots are arranged in a cell, which it three dots long and two dots wide. Each character is a different combination of those six dots. There are sixty-three characters

Geometry

Given $\overline{AB} \approx \overline{AD}$ and $\overline{BC} \approx \overline{CD}$, what statement below allows the SSS Postulate to directly prove that $\triangle ABC \approx \triangle ACD$?

Reading

What do the following three events have in common?

1. Braille used in the United States
2. Braille officially adopted by the United States
3. Braille adopted as universal code for English

Reading Foundations

Read the word. Then choose the picture that matches the word.

hat

Algebra

Solve the following equation for c_1 .

$$R = \frac{c_2 - c_1}{3}$$

Solve for x . Round to the nearest tenth.

$$| 6.2x + 0.6 | = 19.2$$

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

What Do the Scores Mean to Me and My Child?

Scaled Score (SS)

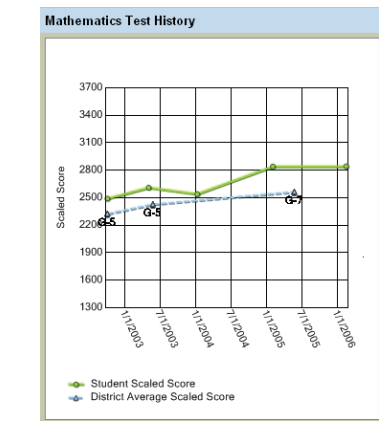
The Scaled Score is a reliable estimate of your child’s ability* and is independent of grade level. Use this score to track progress over time, from fall to spring or year after year, as a type of educational yardstick. The following are average score ranges for different testing sessions in the various subject areas.

Reading	Mathematics		
	Fall	Winter	Spring
2	1781 - 2220	1900-2353	2019-2486
3	2039 - 2521	2157-2611	2275-2700
4	2276 - 2715	2360-2785	2444-2854
5	2457 - 2859	2524-2904	2590-2949
6	2589 - 2964	2640-3002	2690-3039
7	2686 - 3043	2727-3076	2767-3109
8	2778 - 3085	2810-3129	2842-3172
9	2876 - 3149	2890-3189	2903-3228
10	2894 - 3196	2912-3239	2929-3281
11	2898 - 3220	2914-3259	2930-3299

* using the statistical Rasch model.

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.



Performance Rating

The Performance Rating represents your child’s rating in the context of a *diocese-defined* set of performance bands. This grouping may show your child’s probable placement against national peers or another test, if your diocese has commissioned a custom research report from Scantron.

National Percentile Ranking (NPR)

The NPR uses the SS to compare the student to members of the Performance Series National Norm Group within the same grade level. For example, an NPR of 74 means that your child’s score is above 74% of his or her peers in the national norm group.

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.

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 you child’s unit ability estimate, and the green bar shows the highest and lowest scores your child might get if he or she took the test again.

Reading Rate

Reading Rate is a silent reading rate, calculated by dividing the number of words in the passages by the time it took your child to read those passages. Certain test taking techniques may alter the accuracy of this rate. This score is accurate only if your child reads the story before answering questions.

Lexile Measure

The Lexile Measure identifies your child’s place on a developmental scale that matches his or her reading ability to appropriate books. You can use this score to locate books online at your child’s level at www.lexile.com.

Find additional information on Lexiles and Performance Series at http://www.scantron.com/downloads/Lexile_FINAL.pdf.



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
- Algebra**
- Polynomials and Rational Expressions
- Geometry**
- Building Functions
 - Creating Equations
 - Interpreting Functions
 - Linear and Exponential Models
 - Reasoning with Equations and Inequalities
 - Seeing Structure in Expressions
 - Trigonometric Functions

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.

More **Frequently Asked Questions** about Performance Series are available online at <http://www.scantron.com/performance-series>