



OFFICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION
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HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST AND THE NEUMANN SCHOLARSHIP EXAM

June 21, 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Over the last several years our Archdiocesan high schools have offered scholarship and entrance tests for 8th grade students in the fall. Each student would take the test at one or more Archdiocesan high schools that they were interested in attending. Starting this upcoming academic year, the Office of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is introducing a new initiative called **Collaborative Testing**.

Collaborative Testing and the High School Placement Test

The Archdiocese has partnered with Scholastic Testing Services (STS) to provide the High School Placement Test (HSPT) during the week of September 25, 2023. The test will be administered during the school day at your child's elementary school. The test is approximately 2 ½ hours long and will be scored by STS. There is no fee to take the test. Your student will have the opportunity to take the HSPT one time and send the results to one or more of the 15 Archdiocesan high schools.

Collaborative Testing allows your child to sit for the test just one time in the comfort of their classroom in order to be considered for scholarship and placement in any of the 15 Archdiocesan high schools. More information about this program will be shared. To learn more about the Archdiocesan high schools you can visit: www.AOPCatholicSchools.Org/Secondary.

Neumann Scholars Program

Last spring or early fall, your school sent home general information regarding the **Neumann Scholars Program**. In honor of St. John Neumann, the Connelly Foundation awards scholarships to our highest academic achievers who plan to attend an Archdiocesan high school. Along with tuition benefits, Neumann Scholars receive academic/college counseling and opportunities to apply for various summer enrichment programs. In collaboration with the Connelly Foundation, we plan to integrate the Neumann Scholarship Exam with the Collaborative Testing initiative. This means that qualified students will be able to use their scores from the High School Placement Test for consideration for the Neumann Scholarship. The qualifications for the scholarship remain the same and elementary schools determine initial eligibility using the following data:

- A National Percentile (NP) Total Score of 90 **OR** a Cognitive Skills Index (CSI) in the specified 120 range (115-129) in the seventh grade *Terra Nova Test*
- **And** an academic average of 90 in the final marking period of 7th grade

No students will be required to complete an essay.



Qualified students will be notified of their Neumann Scholar eligibility after taking the High School Placement Test in the fall. While students will not have to pre-register for the exam, nor will they have to take a separate scholarship test, qualified students will have to notify the Office of Catholic Education that they wish to be considered for the scholarship. The Neumann Scholars Program awards approximately 40 scholarships annually. The distribution of the scholarships will be determined by the number of students in each county who qualify for the scholarship and elect to submit their scores for consideration. More information as it relates to qualification and score submission will follow in the fall. The scholarship announcement is scheduled for November.

If you have any questions regarding the Collaborative Testing Program or the **Neumann Scholars Program**, please email: HSPT@ArchPhila-OCE.org. I thank you for your continued support of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and prayerful best wishes to you and your family for a restful summer.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Clement
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