

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS SCREENING

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### **What is the purpose of the admissions screening?**

Administrators at the Diocese of Charlotte have asked ABC Educational Services to screen all students entering kindergarten through eighth grade at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School. This process helps to determine the grade level where success will be assured.

### **Exactly what is a screening battery?**

ABC will assess skills related to success in school. Children applying for kindergarten will be assessed in the areas of language, early math and reading development, and developmental readiness. Students applying for first and second grade will be assessed in the areas of written expression, reading and math. Those applying for grades three through eight will be assessed in reading, language, written expression, and math. Kindergartners, first, and second graders will be screened individually or in small groups. Third through eighth graders will be screened for the most part in a group session. ABC prefers not to provide the names of screening devices or specific descriptions of them until after the screening batteries have been given. Our Lady of Mercy will be sending you a copy of our report and test descriptions.

### **My child just took an achievement test at school. Can you use that for the admissions screening?**

No. Different schools have varying procedures for “testing” students. Administrators have requested that ABC administer all screening devices to applicants to ensure consistency.

### **How can I prepare my child for the admissions screening?**

It is best not to mention the word “test,” especially if your child is young. It might be wise to tell your child he or she going to be doing some school activities on his or her grade level.

### **Do I need to bring anything with me for the admissions screening battery?**

After ABC has received your application, we will contact you directly to schedule a screening appointment, within 3-4 weeks. ABC provides all the materials needed for the screening. You do not need to bring anything with you.

### **Where do I bring my child?**

When ABC calls to schedule, they will let you know the location of your screening. It is usually at Our Lady of Mercy or St Leo's.

### **Do you make accommodations for a child with special needs, learning disabilities, etc.?**

Our screening procedures will remain standardized as much as possible. Issues observed during the screening will be noted. Individual cases must be addressed with the school prior to the screening. Physical disabilities will be accommodated to the best of our ability.

### **Will there be a break for my child during the screening.**

Your child may take a bathroom break at any time. Students applying for grades three through eight do have a stretch break midway as their screening takes at least 2 ½ hours.

### **Do I stay or go during the screening?**

Parents may wait in a designated area or feel free to run errands as long as you return within the allotted time. Screening for kindergarten to second grade takes approximately 1 hour. Screening for third through eighth grades takes approximately 2 ½ hours.

### **When do I receive the results of my child's screening?**

The school to which you have applied will send you a copy of your child's screening results and descriptions of screening devices along with their letter regarding your child's admission status. We are often asked: “How did my child do?” immediately following the screening. We are unable to answer at that time because scoring has yet to be completed; however, once you receive your report, feel free to call the ABC office at any time with questions. Our office hours are 9am to 2 pm.