



Office of the Academic Dean

November 16, 2020

Dear Parents,

Bishop Kenny will offer placement testing for incoming ninth grade students on Saturday, January 23, 2021. The High School Placement Test (HSPT) serves as a standard instrument of measure used to inform the placement process. Student results on the HSPT are combined with an evaluation of past standardized test results, such as the Terra Nova, as well as eighth grade coursework and teacher recommendations to determine placement in math, English, and science courses. The purpose of this process is to place incoming ninth grade students in the best position to succeed throughout their four years in our college preparatory learning environment. For a more thorough explanation of the placement process, I encourage you to visit <http://bit.ly/BKplacement>.

The HSPT is a nationally recognized assessment used by many Catholic and private high schools in the United States, including all four high schools in the Diocese of St. Augustine. Students will demonstrate content and skill knowledge in the following areas: verbal, quantitative, reading, mathematics, language skills, and science. The format of the test is multiple choice and will take approximately 3 hours. Students may not use calculators for the mathematics test; they will have access to scratch paper and may write calculations in their test booklets.

The enclosed pamphlet explains the format of each section of the test and provides official HSPT sample questions. The Scholastic Testing Service, the publisher of HSPT, does not release test questions to third-party providers nor will it endorse any practice test or test-preparation program. However, Bishop Kenny has evaluated the following resource and we feel confident in recommending it to students who wish to practice their skills in preparation for the HSPT: <https://www.mometrix.com/academy/hspt-test/>. Please note that we do not recommend purchasing test-prep booklets or online subscriptions since the content of these materials may not match the style of questions or the skills assessed on the HSPT.

Also enclosed are instructions on how to register for the placement test. Please complete registration no later than January 20, 2021. Your child's performance on the HSPT will be mailed to you by the end of February. In order to ensure student readiness for high school, Bishop Kenny requires a summer preparation program for incoming ninth grade students scoring in the lowest local quartile on the HSPT. This program will take place in mid-July with dates to be announced.

I look forward to meeting you on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at our Open House. I will be available to answer any questions you may have on that day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Broach'.

Michael Broach, M.Ed.  
Academic Dean