



## Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools Office

### **Educational Excellence and Standardized Testing Information**

In the Diocese of Joliet, parents choose a Catholic education for the religious instruction that is offered each day and is integrated across all subject areas. The Curriculum in the Diocese of Joliet is aligned with the *Illinois Learning Standards* and infused with Catholic Identity. Our instruction is similar to what is expected throughout Illinois and consistent with Catholic values. The instructional programs in all of our schools are excellent.

Students in Illinois public schools take the *Illinois Standards Achievement Test* (ISAT). The State of Illinois does not permit non-public schools to participate. However, the students in the Diocese of Joliet take *The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills™* (ITBS), a standardized achievement test. This standardized achievement test provides information about how our students perform when compared to a national norm group of students from across the country. When compared to the national norm, our students score well.

In the Joliet Diocese, individual school ITBS test scores are not published for the following reasons:

- These scores are only a snapshot view of each school. The educational program is more than a score on a standardized test given one week of each year.
- Differences in population and finances often have an affect on standardized test scores.
- The desire is to promote individuality of schools and to avoid competition. Schools are encouraged to work together to provide an excellent education for the students.

Parents who are interested in enrolling their child or children in one of our schools are advised to call the school and talk with the principal about the school. After talking with the principal, a visit to the school may be scheduled. Hopefully, this will give parents an insight into the educational program of the school.

Students in grades three, five and seven took the ITBS achievement test in October. Summary information for Diocese is outlined below.

#### ***Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) ~ Fall 2009 Summary Information, Diocese of Joliet***

#### **PERCENT OF STUDENTS IN THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET AT OR ABOVE THE NATIONAL MEAN**

The information below represents the percent of students who scored at or above the mean national percentile of 50 on the ITBS, Fall 2008. The scores below represent all students with an achievement score in grades three, five, and seven.

- Reading ~ Fall 2009
  - 80% of third graders scored at or above the national average.
  - 78% of fifth graders scored at or above the national average.
  - 84% of seventh graders scored at or above the national average.
- Language ~ Fall 2009
  - 78% of third graders scored at or above the national average.
  - 83% of fifth graders scored at or above the national average.
  - 85% of seventh graders scored at or above the national average.
- Mathematics ~ Fall 2009
  - 70% of third graders scored at or above the national average.
  - 69% of fifth graders scored at or above the national average.
  - 79% of seventh graders scored at or above the national average.

### MEAN PERCENTILE FOR STUDENTS IN THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

The mean percentile is the score of the average student in the Diocese of Joliet. The average student in the nation scores at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. The mean percentile\* scores for the Diocese of Joliet at grades three, five and seven are listed below.

- Reading ~ Fall 2009
  - 76<sup>th</sup> mean percentile for third graders.
  - 75<sup>th</sup> mean percentile for fifth graders.
  - 77<sup>th</sup> mean percentile for seventh graders.
- Language ~ Fall 2009
  - 79<sup>th</sup> mean percentile for third graders.
  - 79<sup>th</sup> mean percentile for fifth graders.
  - 78<sup>th</sup> mean percentile for seventh graders.
- Mathematics ~ Fall 2009
  - 70<sup>th</sup> mean percentile for third graders.
  - 68<sup>th</sup> mean percentile for fifth graders.
  - 74<sup>th</sup> mean percentile for seventh graders.

\* Since you cannot average percentiles, the mean percentile is the percentile rank of the average standard score.

### PROFILE OF STUDENTS WITH NORMAL CURVE EQUIVALENT (NCE) SCORES

The Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) was developed for use in program evaluations. The NCE, unlike the National Percentile, is an equal-interval scale and can be treated mathematically. The NCE scores for Diocesan students in grades three through seven are listed below. Although all students in grades three, five and seven take the *Iowa Test of Basic Skills* (ITBS) and *Cognitive Abilities Test™* (CogAT), many schools also assess students in grades four and six. The NCE scores for Reading, Language, and Mathematics are listed below with the number of students assessed.

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Students Assessed</b>	<b>ITBS Reading</b>	<b>ITBS Language</b>	<b>ITBS Mathematics</b>	<b>CogAT SAS*</b>
3	1674	65	67	61	105
4	1141	64	67	61	109
5	1704	64	67	60	110
6	1009	64	65	60	114
7	1685	66	66	63	113
<b>Average NCE</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>61</b>	

\* The SAS is the Standard Age Score as measured by the *Cognitive Abilities Test™* (CogAT). This score measures the ability for learning. The scores above are the mean or average SAS for each grade level.

Please remember that these standardized test scores are a snapshot of student achievement in the Diocese of Joliet. The educational program is broader than the scores of this one standardized test. A comprehensive view of student progress is obtained by using multiple types of data collected throughout the school year, such as Diocesan curriculum assessments, textbook and teacher-made tests, performance evaluations, grades, teacher observation and student self-assessment.