



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 at the end of September. Summary information for Diocese is outlined below.

Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) ~ Fall 2011 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 2011. The scores below represent all students with an achievement score in grades three, five and seven.

- Reading ~ Fall 2011
 - 79% of third graders scored at or above the national average.
 - 80% of fifth graders scored at or above the national average.
 - 82% of seventh graders scored at or above the national average.
- Language ~ Fall 20101
 - 77% of third graders scored at or above the national average.
 - 83% of fifth graders scored at or above the national average.
 - 83% of seventh graders scored at or above the national average.
- Mathematics ~ Fall 2011
 - 70% of third graders scored at or above the national average.
 - 70% of fifth graders scored at or above the national average.
 - 76% 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 50th percentile. The mean percentile* scores for the Diocese of Joliet at grades three, five and seven are listed below.

- Reading ~ Fall 2011
 - 77th mean percentile for third graders.
 - 76th mean percentile for fifth graders.
 - 75th mean percentile for seventh graders.

- Language ~ Fall 2011
 - 80th mean percentile for third graders.
 - 79th mean percentile for fifth graders.
 - 77th mean percentile for seventh graders.
- Mathematics ~ Fall 2011
 - 71st mean percentile for third graders.
 - 71st mean percentile for fifth graders.
 - 72nd 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. All students in grades three, five and seven take the *Iowa Test of Basic Skills* (ITBS). 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.

Grade Level	Students Assessed	ITBS Reading	ITBS Language	ITBS Mathematics
3	1648	65	67	61
4	1366	63	66	61
5	1595	65	67	61
6	1371	63	64	59
7	1621	64	65	62
Average NCE		64	66	61

COGNITIVE ABILITIES TEST™ (CogAT) PROFILE

The *Cognitive Abilities Test* (CogAT) measures reasoning and problem solving abilities that are critical for success in school. The data below indicates the number of students assessed, their Standard Age Score (SAS), the age percentile scores and the age stanine score. The mean scores are: 100 for SAS, 50 for percentile, and 5 for stanine.

Grade Level	Students Assessed	CogAT SAS*	Age Percentile	Age Stanine
3	1648	105	62	6
4	1098	109	71	6
5	1594	111	74	6
6	1104	112	77	7
7	1621	112	77	7

* The SAS measures the ability for learning.

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.