



# ST. THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## PARENT INFORMATION

# OVERVIEW



- ❖ Testing dates
- ❖ Purpose, Importance, and Benefits of the CogAT – Cognitive Abilities Test & Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)
- ❖ CogAT & Iowa Content Areas
- ❖ How is St. Theresa preparing the students?
- ❖ Tips for parents
- ❖ Test Results
- ❖ Q & A

# TESTING DATES



**See the STCS calendar for testing dates**

- ❖ Students in grades K-8 will take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)
- ❖ Students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> will take the CogAT – Cognitive Abilities Test

# Important Reminders



- In order to increase standardization of the administration of the assessments, the Archdiocese has set the testing dates for all schools in our diocese.
- Due to the strict standardization of testing requirements and time constraint, make-up testing will be extremely limited. In the event that a student is absent during the testing period, every effort will be made for the student to make-up the testing section(s) missed only if the absence is considered excused (see attendance policy for additional information.) In the case of an unexcused absence, the student will **NOT** be able to make-up the section(s) missed.

# CogAT – COGNITIVE ABILITIES TEST



CogAT

- Tests student ability
- Assesses the level of understanding, reasoning, and problem-solving skills of students in three different areas:
  1. Verbal
  2. Quantitative
  3. Non-verbal

<http://www.riversidepublishing.com/products/cogAT7/learnmore.html>

# CogAT - (Cont'd)



- The results of CogAT are generally used to predict the success of students in school. Reasoning abilities develop throughout a person's lifetime and develops at different rates.
- The results are also useful to help teachers understand and adapt to their student's needs, which will help the student learn more effectively.
- However, CogAT does not gauge other factors like motivation, effort and work habits that are also vital for school achievement.

# IOWA TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS (ITBS)



IOWA

- Test measures basic skills
- Assesses student achievement and educational development
- Iowa assessments help determine how students are performing on nationwide standards
- Iowa assessments help teachers identify a student's strengths and areas that may need additional emphasis.
- Iowa assessments also measure student growth and progress in the content areas assessed from year to year.
- The assessments help teachers guide and evaluate instruction.

# ITBS – Content Area



- **Kindergarten:** Reading, Language, Vocabulary, Word Analysis, Listening, and Mathematics
- **Grades First-Second:** Reading, Language, Vocabulary, Word Analysis, Listening, Mathematics, Computation, Social Studies, and Science
- **Third Grade:** Reading, Written Expression, Conventions of Writing, Vocabulary, Word Analysis, Listening, Mathematics, Computation, Social Studies, and Science
- **Grades Fourth-Eighth:** Reading, Written Expression, Conventions of Writing, Vocabulary, Mathematics, Computation, Social Studies, and Science

# USING CogAT & ITBS TOGETHER



## Together:

- Comparing the CogAT and the ITBS can help identify if a student is working to ability level, identify strengths and weaknesses, and adapting instruction.
- This enables teachers to provide every opportunity for each child's success.

# Miscellaneous Information



- Teachers read aloud all questions and answers except for Reading Part 2 for Kindergarten students
- Teachers read aloud all questions and answers except for Vocabulary and Reading Parts 1 and 2 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students
- All other grades (3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) read all sections on their own

# PREPARING STUDENTS



- Students have been practicing test-taking strategies throughout the year as part of the educational program offered at STCS
- Students take practice CogAT and ITBS tests in the classrooms
- Teachers talk to their students about the upcoming tests
- Teachers and students discuss coping with anxiety and tips for being good test takers

# Tips for Parents



The best thing you as a parent can do to help your child do their best on standardized tests is to provide positive support by expressing confidence in your child's ability to do their best. Let that be your expectation, as well. Children should know that test scores are important, but are not the measure of your love and acceptance of them.

# Encourage your child to...



- ✓ Get plenty of rest each night
- ✓ Eat a good breakfast
- ✓ Have a positive attitude
- ✓ Relax... don't fret
- ✓ Try hard... do your best
- ✓ Listen carefully and follow directions
- ✓ Think before you answer
- ✓ Read directions and questions carefully
- ✓ Don't rush... but be aware of how much time you have
- ✓ Check over your work when finished
- ✓ Don't expect to know every answer

# TEST RESULTS



The school will distribute test results once we have received them. You can schedule a conference to discuss results with the teacher at that time.

# Q & A



Thank you for your time and continued support.

