

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES: COMMUNITY REPORT

JANUARY, 2020



Catholic Church & School

ST. JOSEPH

a parish school

Dear friends,

In this document, you will find a summary of the standardized test scores for our school for 2018-19. The scores are, once again, excellent. These scores offer an objective look at the strength of our school's academic program; they are also a valuable tool for school staff, as we continuously refine our curriculum and instructional practices.

Although these scores are important, they are not everything. Standardized test scores are just one of many factors we can use to judge how effectively we are realizing our mission and vision. We might also consider to what extent students are drawing closer to Christ, how students are treating each other and co-existing in a Christian community, the degree of parent/grandparent involvement and much more. This detailed report of standardized test scores in no way diminishes the importance of these other considerations. At St Joseph School, we aim for excellence by any measure; every one of these factors is critically important.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joe Zmikly

Principal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHICH TESTS ARE GIVEN? WHEN ARE THEY GIVEN?

Through the year 2019, students in grades 2-8 took the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) during the first two weeks of October each year. Students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 also took the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) at the same time, which provides a learning style profile for each student.

WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION DOES THIS TEST GIVE? HOW IS THIS INFORMATION USED?

ITBS is an achievement test, meaning it tells us what students have learned. We receive a score report for each student, which is shared with his/her parents. Teachers look closely at individual scores, to see which individual students might have gaps in skills. As a faculty, we look closely at group scores to look for trends that might help us improve our teaching. Our ITBS data are not shared with any government agency.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THIS TEST?

This is a paper-and-pencil test.

HOW DO THESE SCORES COMPARE WITH THE M-STEP SCORES OF LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

Our scores are excellent. However, it is not possible to offer a direct comparison between our scores and the M-STEP scores from local public schools. These are different tests, measuring different skills, in a different way.

WHAT STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT DOES ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL USE NOW?

The 2018-19 school year was the last year St. Joseph School administered the ITBS. Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, St. Joseph School will administer the Star Reading and Math assessments, which will provide even more actionable data than the ITBS did.

GUIDE TO ABBREVIATIONS

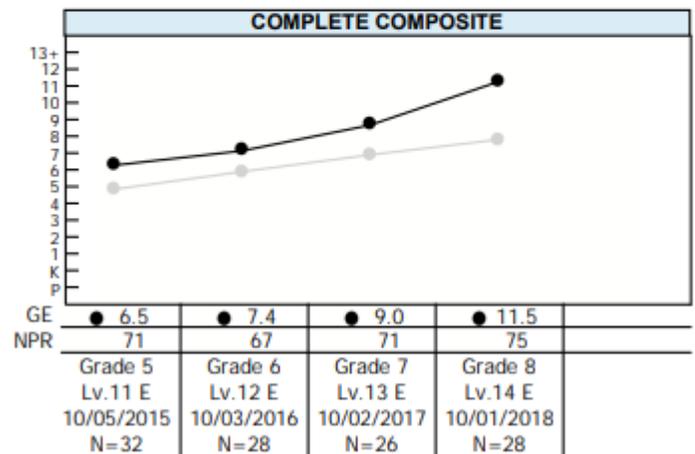
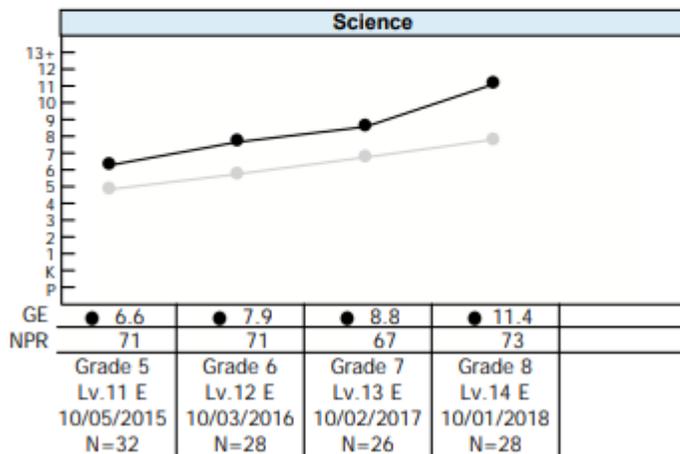
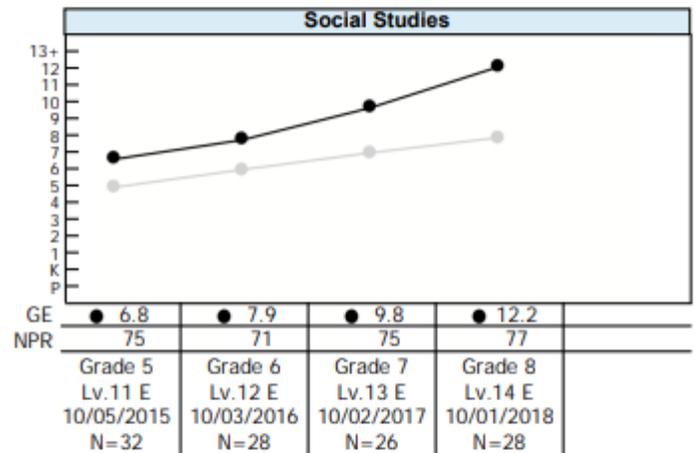
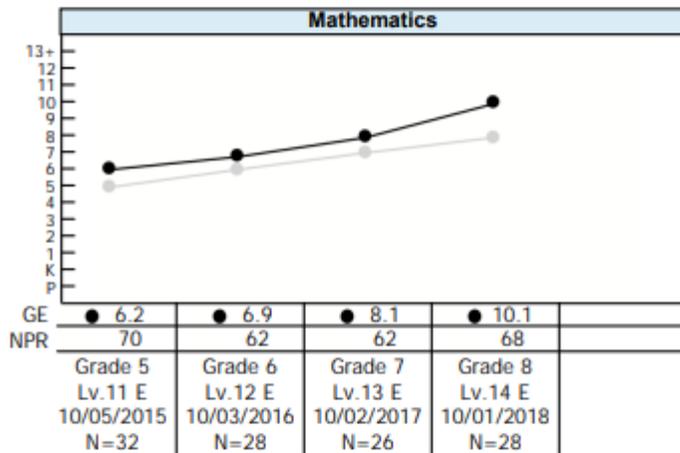
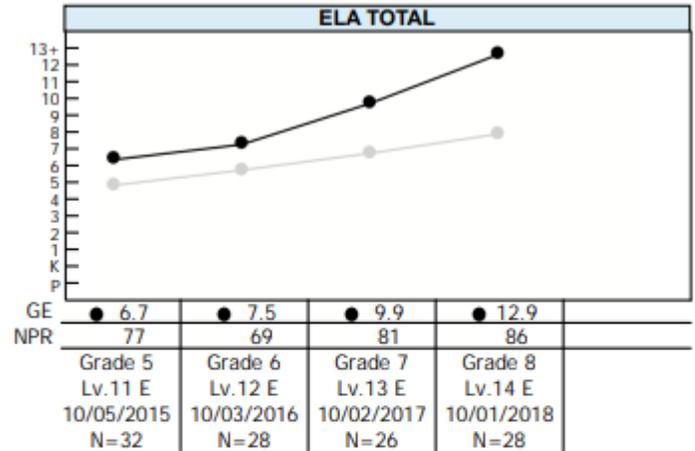
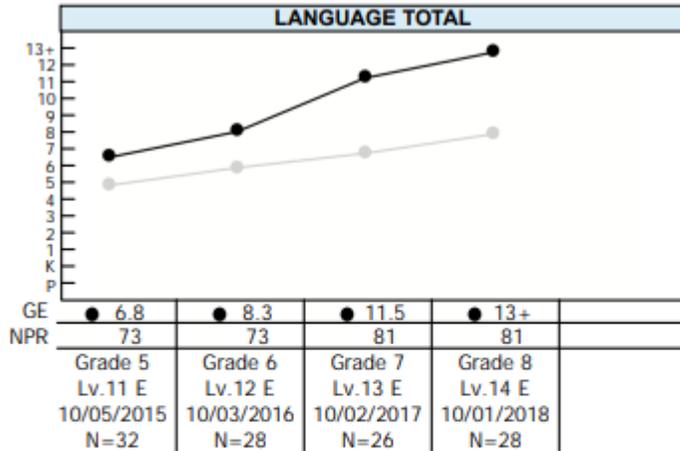
ELA: English/Language Arts (including subtests in vocabulary, written expression, reading, word analysis, listening)

GE: Grade Equivalency, reported in year. month (ie, 4.2 indicates fourth grade, second month)

NPR: National Percentile Ranking, which measures how a group of students performed in relation to national norms/averages. An NPR of 50 would be exactly average, meaning students scored better than 50% of students nationally and worse than 50% of students nationally. It's important to note that ITBS is widely used by private schools across the nation, so our students are being compared to a greater number of private school students.

Grade 8 Through Time

The following graphs illustrate the progress over time of a single group of students, last year's graduating 8th grade class. In each graph, the black dot on the left represents their Grade Equivalency (GE) as fifth graders, the second dot represents their GE as 6th graders, the third dot represents their GE as 7th graders and the fourth dot (on the far right) represents their GE as 8th graders. An average rate of progress would be a gain of one year's GE in one year's time. The gray dots represent the average national scores.



SUMMARY

St. Joseph School students begin just slightly above grade level in second grade. From that point forward, they consistently make more than one year's progress in one year's time. Students' rate of progress accelerates as they move into the middle school. Last year's graduating 8th grade class made an average of 1.4 years of progress each year during their time in middle school, far ahead of the national average rate of progress for students who take the ITBS. This accelerated rate of progress is substantially above-level achievement for the class as a whole.