



Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

Division Results

2011-2012

Provincial Achievement Tests

And

Diploma Examinations

Executive Summary

Report to the Board of Trustees

October 29, 2012

*Report by David Quick,
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Learning Services*

The Role of Assessment as an Integral Part of Instruction

Assessment of learning is a critical part of the instructional process as it enables educators to use achievement data to identify and address areas of concern and areas of strength. **Assessment for learning** strategies used throughout the instructional process assist teachers to confirm that students have learned what they were taught and are ready to move to new concepts. Teachers use assessment of and for learning to guide quality instruction.

The Provincial Achievement Tests and the Diploma Examinations are considered to be year-end assessments and the results can also guide instruction in the following year. Other assessments provided by teachers include mid-year and final exams, unit exams, and performance-based assessments to name a few.

In addition to standardized testing, students learn many other skills that are assessed, most notably how to live and work with others, and how to become contributing members of society in a Christ-like manner. These are important learning goals in our District and the province and are included in our Three-Year Education Plan. These learning goals cannot be measured by paper-and-pencil tests.

Provincial assessments are designed to assess the achievement of provincial standards, and provide a comparison for how students are performing in one jurisdiction vs. another. Consistently GSACRD students perform extremely well in these assessments and the detail below provides summaries by grade and course. The interpretation of achievement test results and diploma examination results can vary and involve many factors that contribute to achievement. It should be noted that for the Provincial Achievement Tests results, the results included in this report are based on all of the students enrolled in a particular grade (the cohort) and not only the students who wrote the tests. Results for the Diploma examinations are based only on those who wrote the tests.

The District reviews all assessments and discusses individual school results during School Results Reports in November and December. The information gathered through these discussions and assessments provide a snapshot on student performance and assist teachers in planning instruction.

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Overview of the Results of the Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Examinations

Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is proud of the achievement of its students and staff on the Provincial Achievement Tests and the Diploma Examinations. GSACRD students out performed their provincial counterparts in **ALL** core subject Achievement tests at the Acceptable Standard and in **12 of the 13** at the Standard of Excellence. On the Diploma Examinations, GSACRD students matched or bettered their colleagues on **9 of 11** examinations at the Acceptable.

Some of the highlights of GSACRD results include:

Grade 3 PAT Results

- GSACRD students significantly exceeded the provincial results at both the Acceptable Standard and Standard of Excellence in Provincial Achievement Tests in English Language Arts and mathematics. GSACRD students averaged 11% higher in Language Arts and 10% higher on the Acceptable Standard and 6% higher in Language Arts and 4% in Mathematics on the Standard of Excellence.
- 93% of GSACRD students successfully met the acceptable standard in English Language Arts.
- The number of GSACRD students below the Acceptable Standard was much better than the provincial results in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- The 5-year trend indicates that student achievement is improving over time at the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence in English Language Arts.

Grade 6 PAT Results

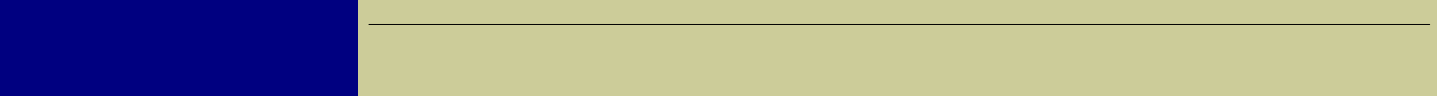
- GSACRD students significantly exceeded the provincial results at both the Acceptable Standard and Standard of Excellence in all curriculum areas.
- The overall percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard was better than the province.
- French Immersion students continued their long tradition of success with results above the province.
- The 5-year trend indicates that the number of students achieving the Acceptable Standard and the Standard of Excellence has remained very high and relatively constant over time.

Grade 9 PAT Results

- GSACRD students have significantly exceeded the provincial results at the Acceptable Standard on all areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests (English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics).
- GSACRD students exceeded the provincial results at the Standard of Excellence in English Language Arts, French Language Arts, Math and Socials. Science was 1.2% below the province.
- The percentage of GSACRD students not meeting the Acceptable Standard is minimal when compared to provincial results.
- The 5-year trend indicates that the outstanding success of GSACRD grade 9 students has remained stable in all areas tested by the Provincial Achievement Tests.

Diploma Examination Results

- GSACRD students have exceeded the provincial results on 9 of the 11 diploma examinations at the Acceptable Standard.
- GSACRD's participation rate (students writing 4 or more diploma exams) exceeded the provincial participation rate and was deemed to be at a high level as reported on the provincial Accountability Pillar.
- The participation rate of GSACRD students in French Immersion is more than twice that of the province.



Looking Ahead

1. The results are being carefully examined by our Central Office Leadership Team and our school-based administrators to determine areas of success and areas of focus to improve student learning for inclusion in their school learning plans.
2. The overall division results will be shared with our community through our Communications Manager.
3. School-based administrators are in the process of sharing the results with their teachers and will collaboratively determine a plan of action to either maintain successful results or to improve results in areas requiring improvement. Celebration of achievement will be encouraged at the school level to recognize the work of teachers and the success of our students.
4. School-based administrators will share the results with their school councils and parent communities.
5. School-based administrators will share their school results with the division's senior administrative team during the School Results Reviews in late October and November. Strategies to address those areas requiring improvement at the school level will be shared with trustees and the Central Office Leadership Team at that time.
6. As a Division, we will continue to focus on building our strength in the Standard of Excellence throughout the grade levels.

The following is a summary of results. Those results highlighted indicate areas where GSACRD students out performed others in the province.

Provincial Achievement Test Results 2011-12

| | Acceptable | | Excellent | |
|------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | GSACRD | Prov. | GSACRD | Prov. |
| ELA 3 | 93.0 | 81.9 | 27.3 | 20.4 |
| Math 3 | 86.9 | 76.8 | 29.7 | 25.5 |
| FLA 3 | 92.4 | 82.1 | 21.8 | 14.4 |
| ELA 6 | 91.3 | 82.7 | 21.4 | 17.8 |
| Math 6 | 83.8 | 74.7 | 18.3 | 16.6 |
| Science 6 | 87.7 | 77.8 | 32.6 | 28.2 |
| Socials 6 | 83.0 | 73.2 | 21.8 | 19.5 |
| FLA 6 | 89.8 | 89.3 | 18.0 | 17.3 |
| ELA 9 | 87.3 | 77.4 | 18.2 | 16.4 |
| Math 9 | 79.4 | 66.4 | 22.0 | 17.8 |
| Science 9 | 85.3 | 74.1 | 21.2 | 22.4 |
| Socials 9 | 78.4 | 68.9 | 23.1 | 19.1 |
| FLA 9 | 88.7 | 87.5 | 12.4 | 12.2 |

Diploma Exam Results 2011-12

| | Acceptable | | Excellent | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | GSACRD | Prov. | GSACRD | Prov. |
| Applied Math | 83.3 | 75.6 | 16.9 | 10.3 |
| Biology 30 | 81.5 | 81.8 | 26.4 | 28.1 |
| Chemistry 30 | 81.7 | 76.7 | 27.5 | 28.4 |
| ELA 30-1 | 92.9 | 86.0 | 15.0 | 11.3 |
| ELA 30-2 | 95.5 | 89.5 | 10.3 | 10.7 |
| FLA 30-1 | 97.8 | 95.5 | 21.7 | 13.4 |
| Physics 30 | 76.5 | 81.0 | 32.1 | 30.3 |
| Pure Math 30 | 85.4 | 81.8 | 25.3 | 27.1 |
| Science 30 | 87.0 | 79.8 | 17.4 | 22.0 |
| Socials 30-1 | 89.1 | 86.2 | 15.5 | 16.7 |
| Socials 30-2 | 86.6 | 83.0 | 9.4 | 13.7 |