

GRADE	READING	MATH	LANGUAGE	SPELLING	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	CogAT
1	88	80	80	84			76
2	85	76	82	83	69	80	
3	82	77	83	79	80	84	79
4	85	79	86	83	81	84	
5	75	76	83	77	77	81	77
6	73	76	72	68	77	73	
7	74	76	74	69	72	74	74
8	63	74	69	73	61	61	

*All scores are National Percentiles

ITBS 2007 – St. John's Lutheran School

Dear Parents,

The Iowa Tests (ITBS) are given mainly to obtain information that teachers can use to meet the individual learning needs of students in their class. Test scores can help teachers identify each student's strongest areas as well as the areas in which the most work may be needed. It is important to remember that your child's ITBS scores should be used with other information you obtain through teacher conferences, your own observations of your child, and an examination of the school papers she or he brings home. Taken together with this other information, test scores can help you to determine how well your child is progressing academically. Another important idea to keep in mind is that the tests do not measure all of the important knowledge and skills that St. John's provides your child. Enclosed you will find the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Profile Narrative for your child. I want to attempt to help you understand these scores and what meaning they have for your child's education.

NPR shows the national percentile for your child. A percentile score tells what percentage of students scored below your student on a nation wide basis at the same grade level who took the test. NPR is not the percentage of questions answered correctly. Percentiles that are 75 and above, represent above average performance for the grade level. Percentiles between 25 and 75 represent average performance for the grade level. Percentiles below 25 represent below average performance.

When looking at current ITBS scores, the question has been raised as to why there is a fluctuation in scores from grade to grade. It is first necessary to note that when looking at the scores for the current school year, you are not comparing a class to itself but to another group of students. However, when tracking the same group of students, it is evident that scores change over the years.

When testing in the early grades, there is only a certain amount of knowledge acquired by the student that can be tested. Each year, knowledge and learning grows, allowing for a broader range of material to be tested. By the time the student reaches middle school, the student is drawing from a vast amount of knowledge learned, and in turn has more opportunities to mix information up, look for answers that are not relevant to the content, and read more into the question than may be necessary.

The population of students from year to year also changes, and the test scores in earlier grades may not accurately be compared with the same class in future years due to this change. Currently, the middle school is attempting to track the number of years students have attended St. John's, and this may help shed some light on how much the population of a certain class has changed and how it may have affected the scores.

Students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7, also took the CogAT, Cognitive Abilities Test. CogAT measures reasoning abilities that are critical for success in school. There are three major areas, which are tested for their relative strengths: verbal, quantitative and non-verbal.

The purpose of the ITBS is to provide parents and schools with an idea of how a student compares to the national norm group. It is difficult to use it for comparing one school to another. There are many other factors parents need to consider when selecting the school they feel is right for their children. In our case, parents need to know that Lutheran Schools exist to share Christ and offer far more than superior academic programs. We teach God's Word in its truth and purity. We teach the message of the Father's infinite love. We teach that life cannot be full without the power of the Holy Spirit. We teach that salvation is ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and it is through him, we have eternal life.

If there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or me for further explanation.

In Jesus' Service,

Gary A. Beyer
Principal