

A Memo from the Principal...

The results are in....

As we all know that when something good happens it is extremely hard to not share the good news with someone. This past Spring the students in grades 1-8 of St. Mary' School participated in the Iowa Tests for Basic Skills (ITBS) and their results are phenomenal.

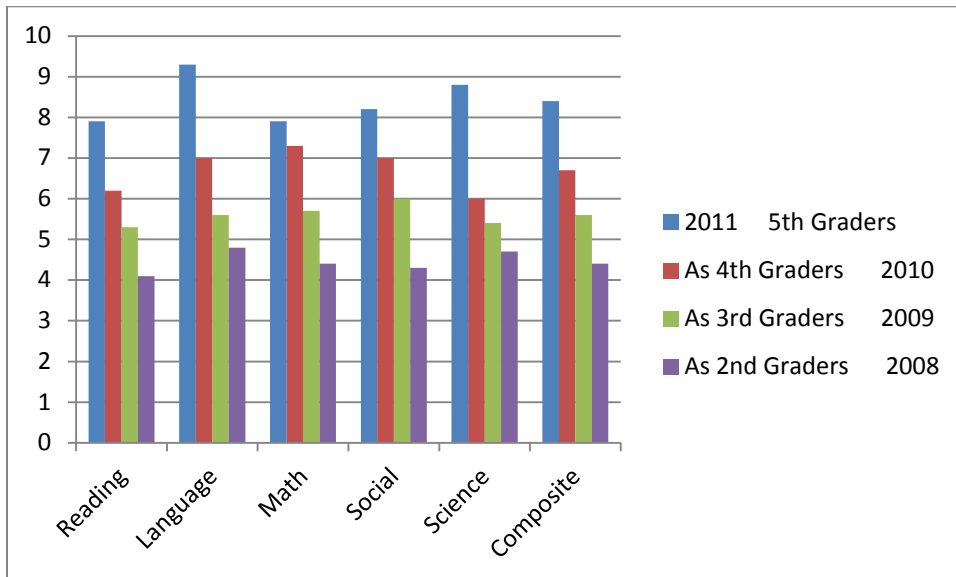
The primary purpose of these assessments at St. Mary's School, Bird Island is to provide information to help improve instruction. The testing program provides a variety of assessments and standardized tests. The data received from testing helps the school analyze student progress, student curriculum, help teachers to determine which programs will be the most appropriate for each student, and assures that the school is offering the best possible education for all students. While data is crucial to measuring progress, it is important to remember that each test score is just one of the many tools in the toolbox to improve instruction and increase student achievement.

Just what are our results are telling us about the students of St. Mary's

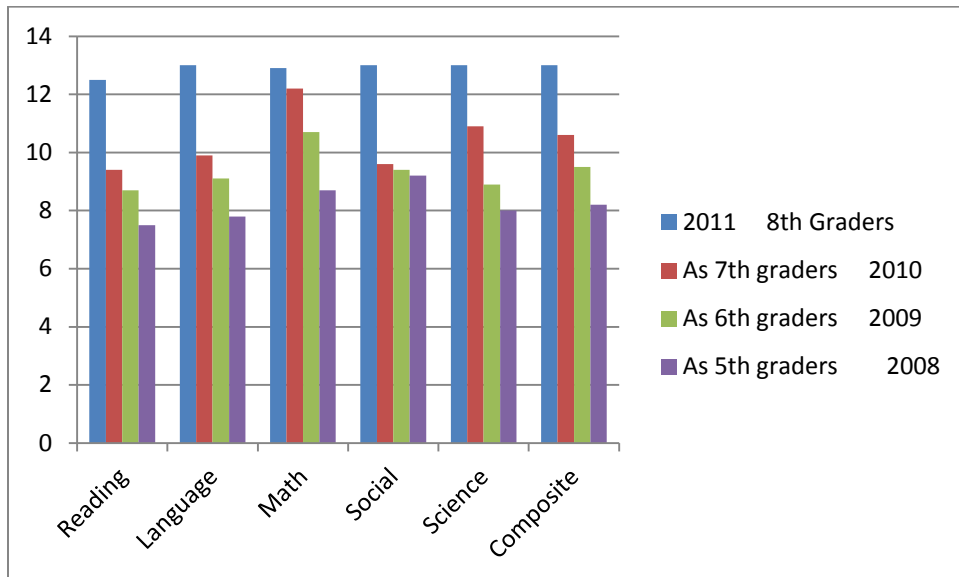
- This year was the first year we had our first graders participate in the testing. There overall composite score reflected on the high end of those who would be completing second grade.

2011 1st Graders	Reading	Language	Math	Social	Science	Composite
	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.3

- Over the past few years students in grades two thru eight have consistently shown a consistent growth of one level above grade equivalent level. As the chart below indicates, our fifth graders earned an overall composite score which reflected an overall composite score in the range at a lower eighth grade level nationally in comparison to other nonpublic schools.



- This years 8th graders score a 13 in 3 out of 5 core testing areas. What does this mean? It reflects a testing performance ability compatible to a first year college student in 10 out of the 12 testing areas. The two areas that did not calculate to a score of 13 resulted in a 12.9 and a 12.5 which indicates a performance at a twelfth grade ninth month and a twelfth grade fifth month high school senior.



Taking into consideration the results of tested areas, staff is able to measure the rigor of the content that is being taught in each specific grade level in conjunction to the testing results. The testing information helps us to build upon what we are able to review and to enhance the curriculum for each class and to strive to provide excellent, quality education for the students. The students of St. Mary's School and their parents have A LOT of be proud of. We look forward to the beginning of another year.