

Testing Results



Most of you probably know that we took some tests required by the Archdiocese last month. Specifically, the 3rd-7th graders took the Terra Nova Tests, and our 8th graders took the ACT's Explore Test. In this article I will report on the results of our 8th graders. Even if you don't have a child in 8th grade, I would still remind you that our scores on this test are the cumulative result of all the years those students spent in the St. Columbkille School. Therefore, they can give you some idea on how successful we are in educating your children.

The Explore Tests cover four academic areas just like the ACT. In fact, ACT uses Explore Test results to predict how students will do on that college entrance test they will take as a junior or a senior in high school. The four areas are English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science.

Local Percentage of Students in National Quartiles

English		Mathematics		Reading		Science	
Nat'l. quartile	% of St. C.	Nat'l. quartile	% of St. C.	Nat'l. quartile	% of St. C.	Nat'l. quartile	% of St. C.
75-100%	68	75-100%	53	75-100%	72	75-100%	81
50-74%	17	50-74%	15	50-74%	21	50-74%	11
25-49%	11	25-49%	23	25-49%	8	25-49%	6
1-24%	4	1-24%	9	1-24%	0	1-24%	2

The National quartile column is how the rest of the nation's 8th grade scores are distributed. If the 8th graders at St. Columbkille scored exactly like the rest of the nation, we would have 25% of our students in each quartile. However, you can see that the majority of our students scored in the top 25% of the nation in each subject area.

Take English as an example. 68% of our 8th graders scored in the top 25% of the country. If you look at the top half of the country, we had 85% of our students there. Those are very good scores. In fact, as you look across all four subject areas, you can see that we are above average in every area.

Of course this doesn't mean that there is no room for improvement. By looking at these test scores it would appear that we are strongest in Science, then Reading, and then English. While we are still above average in Math, it can be considered a relative weakness by these test scores.

We will be studying these results in more depth and compare the scores that this year's 8th graders received with other years. We will also look at other student achievement data as we strive to make good instructional decisions about our students and our curriculum, and how we can continue to improve your school.

Yours in Christ,
Jim Makey, Principal