

NIAGARA CATHOLIC STUDENTS EXCEED PROVINCIAL AVERAGES FOR GRADE 3 AND 6 LITERACY AND NUMERACY, GRADE 9 MATHEMATICS, AND OSSLT ASSESSMENTS

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has released the assessment results for Grade 3 and 6 mathematics and literacy assessments, Grade 9 mathematics assessments and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), including results for the Niagara Catholic District School Board. This is the first time that all EQAO assessments have been released at the same time.

Grade 3 and 6 students exceeded the provincial average in reading, writing and mathematics.

Seventy-nine per cent of primary students at Niagara Catholic performed at Level 3 or above on the assessment, compared to 72 per cent of the province-wide cohort. Eighty per cent of Grade 3 students obtained Level 3 or higher on the writing assessment compared to 74 per cent across Ontario, and 68 per cent of students obtained a Level 3 or higher on the mathematics assessment, five per cent higher than all Ontario Grade 3 students who took the test.

On the Junior panel, 84 per cent of Grade 6 students who participated in the assessments achieved Level 3 or higher on reading, three per cent higher than the provincial figure, 86 per cent of Junior students obtained a Level 3 or higher on writing, compared to 80 per cent in Ontario, and 56 per cent of Grade 6 students obtained Level Three or higher in mathematics, compared to the 50 per cent province-wide figure.

In the Grade 9 mathematics, 83 per cent of students in the academic stream performed at or above the provincial standard, on par with the provincial figure, and 47 per cent of students in Applied mathematics met or exceeded the provincial standard, two per cent higher than the provincial figure.

The Ministry of Education requires students to successfully complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test in order to graduate from secondary school. In 2016, 86 per cent of the students who wrote the test for the first time were successful. In Ontario, that figure was 81 per cent.

Mathematics will be a key focus for Niagara Catholic throughout 2016-2017, as Board and school administrators and school staff continue to work together to improve student achievement in mathematics through the Ministry of Education’s Renewed Mathematics Strategy.

“Niagara Catholic is fortunate to have a strong team of committed partners committed to student success,” said Board Chair Father Paul MacNeil. *“Students work hard every day to learn new concepts and are guided by teachers and support staff who provide support and encouragement. These lessons are reinforced at home. We recognize the value of the results of these assessments, but we believe that each student has unique gifts and talents that are far more meaningful than an assessment score. We will continue to balance student achievement with the need to build up student confidence and acceptance.”*

Director of Education John Crocco said the Board will continue to work toward areas of strength continue to move forward, and to focus on areas where improvement is needed.

“We are extremely proud of the exemplary Catholic leadership of our school and system administrators, the dedication and skills of our talented staff and the commitment of our students to academic excellence” said Director Crocco. *“EQAO assessments are one of the many pieces of evidence that the Board and schools use to measure student achievement. Combined with other data, assessments, and the important ongoing conversations held with students, parents and staff throughout the school year, this provides consistent opportunities for feedback and planning to design and provide programs and services for the success of all students in all schools throughout Niagara Catholic.”*

Niagara Catholic provides excellence in Catholic education to approximately 24,000 students throughout Niagara; from Early Learning Kindergarten through graduation.

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