



Kenora Catholic District School Board

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and the Church.

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Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

2011

Date:	June 1, 2011
Topic:	Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Results
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Communication:

Kenora Catholic District School Board Welcomes OSSLT Results!

Ninety percent of students writing the test for the first time passed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The literacy test is a graduation requirement for all students and was written by all grade 10 students in April of this year in every high school in Ontario.

Again this year the board has improved its results. 90% is a statistic that represents a high level of literacy proficiency and preparation for the world of work. The results are 7% higher than the provincial average and represent a 1% increase over last year's results. "It is a good measure of our students' abilities and the numbers show that we are hitting the mark", says Murray Delorme, assistant to the director and Student Success Lead. "This is really a culmination of the work that our students, parents and teachers have been doing in all of the years of schooling up until now. "

Principal of St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Paul White, is also pleased with these results. "Our staff knows that literacy is an important skill and that we have to work well as a team with our community and our parents in order to help our students show their achievements," says White. "We work with the talents of our students and are always happy to see how well prepared they are as effective communicators. We have a great team and it is all about working well together for the good of our students!"

The staff at the high school has been implementing school improvement plans that focus on ensuring that all of the students are moving forward and that the gaps in the data are being examined carefully. "The teachers have been implementing a multi-faceted approach to tackling the issues that our data showed we have," White adds. "We saw a need for more work with our boys in particular and we have been working on fixing it."

Again this year the school worked on the philosophy that all students should participate in the testing and so 98% of the students who were eligible to write wrote the test.

"This is very important to us," says White. "We believe that ALL students can succeed and so we show students that we have high expectations for them when we expect that everyone will write the test."

White says that the school will continue to make the achievement needs of all students a focus for the school's improvement planning and comments that, as always, he is pleased to be able to celebrate the good work of students and staff through the announcement of this test's results.

Phyllis Eikre
Director of Education

Mike Favreau
Chair of the Board