



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

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Developed By:	Mary Cunningham, Superintendent of Instructional Services
Reviewed By:	Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education
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Kenora Catholic District School Board Welcomes EQAO Results!

It is all in your attitude. Even though the results are not improvements in all areas, the Kenora Catholic District School Board says that they welcome the results and are planning to use them to help shape the teaching and learning for students in reading, writing and mathematics. "The results for the EQAO testing for Primary and Junior grades in reading, writing and mathematics are not the good news that we are used to seeing," says Mary Cunningham, Superintendent of Instructional Services, "but we are looking at this as a chance to grow and learn and move forward."

Ontario has province wide testing every year that looks at how well students are faring in reading, writing and mathematics in the primary and junior divisions. These tests are marked with a four- level system with level 3 or 4 being considered the provincial standard. This year the Kenora Catholic District School Board found that the results were not part of the steady increase that they have been seeing over the past few years. Instead, the results for primary students show a leveling off effect for both reading and mathematics. On the good side, the writing results have gone up by 14 points. This means that 14% more of the students are in levels 3 or 4. In the junior level, the results do not show any increases. "This is clearly an indication that we need to change some of our strategies," says Cunningham. "We thought we were doing what we needed to do, but obviously we need to regroup and find some alternatives. We have to see this as an opportunity to change and grow."

The Catholic school board is looking at creating plans that will work on two different areas. "One of our first priorities is to make sure that we look at the areas where students have gaps in their learning and communicate that information to their teachers right away," Cunningham says. "At the same time we need to look at what worked well and what needed more time and energy from our program last year." The board has an annual improvement plan that governs how schools will try to improve student achievement.

"We will work closely with our teachers to make sure that we are closing any gaps that have been created," says Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education for the board. "We have a great staff and we know that if we work together we can find ways to turn this around."

One of the places that the board will examine very closely is the grade nine Mathematics classes at the high school. These classes also underwent testing but were very successful. "We need to look at what was effective in the grade nine classes since they not only improved compared to last year's results, but were also significantly above the provincial results. This is a great place for us to start our search for successful practice," says Cunningham.

The grade nine academic math scores were 9 points above the province's score of 83% and the applied Math scores were 22% higher than the provincial scores of 42%. "We are very proud of our grade 9 Math students," says Paul White, principal of Saint Thomas Aquinas High School. "They have achieved well in the testing and show that they are well prepared for the work ahead of them in grades 10, 11 and 12."

Phyllis Eikre
Director of Education

Mike Favreau
Chair of the Board