



Kenora Catholic District School Board

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and strong partnerships with parents and the church.

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Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

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Date:	September 17, 2009
Topic:	The Kenora Catholic District School Board Moves Forward with Priorities and Plans in Light of EQAO Results
Developed By:	Marry Cunningham, Curriculum Coordinator
Reviewed By:	Murray Delorme, Assistant to the Director of Education & Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education
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Communication:

The school year may be just starting, but the plans for improvement are well underway.

The Kenora Catholic District School Board is continuing to champion constant improvement and is supporting student achievement with many significant initiatives and a carefully constructed board improvement plan.

The scores for grade three showed that 56% of grade three students in the board were achieving a level three or four. (Level 3 is the level that the province has set as its goal for achievement and is considered the provincial standard). In writing, 61% of students are achieving the provincial standard. In mathematics, 74% hit the target.

In grade six, 69% of students were able to score level three or four in the reading assessment completed last spring. On the writing assessment, 61% were at the provincial standard and in mathematics 76% achieved level three or four.

"Today's release of the results from EQAO testing in Primary and Junior grades shows us where our work needs to continue and intensify", says Mary Cunningham, Curriculum Coordinator. The results of the provincial wide test show that grade three and six students in the Kenora Catholic District School Board scored slightly lower in reading and writing but have improved in mathematics.

"We know that we have improvements to make and our teachers are working hard at changing the way they teach. They are adapting their teaching styles to reflect what research tells us is the most effective way to reach students and to help them improve their achievement. They are working in collaborative groups and creating ways to increase student achievement by improving teaching strategies."

"We are happy to note the huge gains that St. Thomas Aquinas High school students have made in grade nine mathematics scores," says Murray Delorme, Assistant to the Director of Education for the Kenora Catholic District School Board. "The work done with the staff and students has shown tremendous results and we are very proud of the way that the school was able to adapt to students' needs". The results for academic math students show that 81% of students in grade nine are at level 3 or 4. The applied results show that 67% of students are at that provincial standard. "These results may not sound impressive at first," says Paul White, Principal of St. Thomas Aquinas High school. "However, we know that almost 30% more of our students at the applied level are scoring at level 3 and 4 than those of the province. That is something to be celebrated!"

"This year we will continue to see progress for our students," says Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education for the Kenora Catholic District School Board. "We are forging ahead with plans that include a focus on closing the achievement gap for our students. We are working hard to create learning success for all students and are happy to see how few students are in level one in all subject areas and grades. This is an important aspect of our work on closing the gap."

Some of the plans for this year's professional development will be focusing on the continued collaborative model of professional learning communities and the strategy called Teaching Learning Critical Pathways.

Other efforts will be seen in the continued participation in an oral language project that focuses on kindergarten to grade two students. The board has strongly supported this program and will be continuing to bring the oral language training to their teachers.

Teachers will also be seeing more resources in their classrooms. "We are very happy to have been able to purchase Smart Boards, iPods and voice recorders," says Eikre. "These resources will help our teachers differentiate instruction so that we can meet the needs of all students."

The Kenora Catholic District School Board will again be a part of a larger effort to tackle literacy and numeracy issues. It is continuing to work with the Northern Ontario Education Leadership (NOEL) group to lobby for funding and to work on projects targeted to improve student achievement.

Phyllis Eikre
Director of Education

Darryl Michaluk
Chair of the Board