

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) Information November, 2010

In October all students in grades K5-8 were administered the ITBS battery of tests along with the Cognitive Abilities Test. The ITBS complete battery tested students in each academic area including the following:

- Vocabulary
- Reading comprehension
- Spelling
- Capitalization
- Punctuation
- English Usage and Expression
- Math Concepts & Estimation
- Problem Solving & Data Interpretation
- Math Computation
- Social Studies
- Science
- Maps & Diagrams
- Reference Materials

The CogAt (Cognitive Abilities Test) measured each student's Verbal, Quantitative and Non-Verbal abilities in relation to his/her chronological age group as well as in relation to other students at that grade level.

Teachers are able to study the areas of strength and weakness in each subject area and be enabled to plan lessons and teaching strategies that more effectively meet the needs of the students in the class. The Cognitive Abilities Tests provide teachers with a better understanding of the students' learning styles enabling them to group and provide more meaningful activities. These tests are not to be considered so much as an achievement test as a diagnostic measure in order to plan for the student's overall educational program.

We have found that students at each grade level have a wide range of abilities and levels of achievement. There are students who are achieving at some very high levels and need to be appropriately challenged. Other students in the same class may be in need of more intense instruction and remediation. In order to meet all needs it is necessary to create groups with classes. Due to varying ability levels and readiness to learn some students who are working at more advanced levels are provided materials above their current grade level (for example, students in 1st grade who are working above grade level are grouped accordingly and given more advanced materials.) This could occur in various subjects according to a child's strength or weakness. It certainly would not mean that the student would be ready to move entirely to another level. We will only consider any vertical grouping from level to level as appropriate for the greatest success of the student.

With diagnostic tests like the ITBS, we are more capable to plan for and prepare programs that meet the best needs of the students. Enclosed you are receiving your student's profile in each subject area. Remember, that this test was administered in October. The 50 percentile level is average for students nation-wide. Following this test there are seven months of school and lots more teaching and learning. If taken at the end of the year, we could expect the scores to be significantly stronger. Each year we will be administering the ITBS and CogAt tests in order to better diagnose each student's learning needs and be able to plan for optimal teaching/learning situations.