



Holy Cross Catholic School

1745 S. Clinton Street * Defiance, OH 43512 * 419-784-2021

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TO: HCCS Parents and Parishioners of St. John and St. Mary Catholic Church
FROM: Sr. Lynda Snyder, Principal
RE: Spring 2016 State Test Results
Academic Excellence at HCCS

Educational achievement of students tends to rise or fall in direct relation to the expectations placed upon them. We firmly believe this statement at HCCS. All of our students are held to a high academic expectation. Our teachers make sure that students acquire a solid faith foundation and the most important knowledge and leadership skills they will need to succeed in adult life.

HCCS measures academic success in a variety of ways including standardized testing. For years, HCCS students have been evaluated using a test called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) that all parochial schools in the Toledo Diocese administer.

Last academic year for the first time, HCCS students also participated in the Ohio State Standardized Test. The reasoning behind the decision to evaluate our students with the State Test is to give us another way to evaluate HCCS' academic performance compared to the state and local district averages. Additionally, the results arm our teachers and parents with fine-grained information about student learning progress which will help them more precisely identify academic strengths and weaknesses, as well as the specific concepts and skills students have not yet mastered.

2015-2016 Ohio State Tests Results for HCCS

All schools who took the Ohio State Test in the Spring of 2016 administered the following tests: Students in grade 3-8 took a math and language arts test in the spring of 2016. Grades 5 and 8 also took the science test while grades 4 and 6 took the social studies test.

I am very pleased to report that for all but one of the sixteen types of tests administered, the percentage of HCCS students who tested proficient (a score of 700 or higher) exceeded the state averages. Our students are particularly strong in the subjects of Science and Social Studies. The top priority for improvement identified by the State Test at HCCS is Math. Our second area of focus is English Language Arts. Our faculty have begun discussing how instruction time, focus on learning outcomes and new performance measurement practices can improve the proficiency of our students in all subjects and all grades.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Ohio's New Learning Standards provide students with practical experience applying math, reading, and writing skills that matter most. The new standards emphasize the ability to collaborate, communicate, and tackle challenges. Measuring these standards will help our students gain the critical thinking and problem-solving skills they need to succeed in college, in their careers, and in life. For more information on Ohio's New Learning Standards visit <http://education.ohio.gov>.

How Does HCCS Compare to Others?

Below is a chart that illustrates the performance of our students by grade and subject compared to the state averages. As stated earlier, you will see that HCCS students exceed the state averages and in many cases far exceed the state average. The State Test is a measurement of a student’s individual proficiency of the learning standards for a specific topic. Our teachers teach the subject matter that is necessary for students to master proficient understanding of the learning standards developed by the Ohio Department of Education. They are not expected to utilize instruction time to “teach to the test” or prepare students for the rigor of the State Test. Our goal is to prepare our students with the most important subject matter and learning experience they can so that students can confidently comprehend and retain information and build upon those intellectual ideas in the future. Due to our smaller enrollment numbers, first-time experience taking the State Test and our philosophy on preparation for State Testing, we do not feel that a comparison with schools on an individual scale is relevant at this time. HCCS will continue to take State Testing in the spring of each academic year and will continue to use the results as one of the many ways we measure academic success.

For more information on academics at HCCS, please do not hesitate to contact me at 419-784-2021 or at srlynda@defianceholycross.org.

Percent Proficient (scoring a 700 or better) in English Language Arts, Spring 2016

Grade	HCCS % Proficient	State % (Avg) Proficient
3	58%	54%
4	63%	57%
5	80%	60%
6	57%	54%
7	67%	53%
8	100%	47%

Percent Proficient (scoring a 700 or better) in Mathematics, Spring 2016

Grade	HCCS % Proficient	State % (Avg) Proficient
3	92%	66%
4	75%	69%
5	40%	62%
6	57%	56%
7	67%	55%
8	100%	52%

Percent Proficient (scoring a 700 or better) in Science, Spring 2016

Grade	HCCS % Proficient	State % (Avg) Proficient
5	80%	67%
8	100%	64%

Percent Proficient (scoring a 700 or better) in Social Studies, Spring 2016

Grade	HCCS % Proficient	State % (Avg) Proficient
4	88%	76%
6	71%	61%