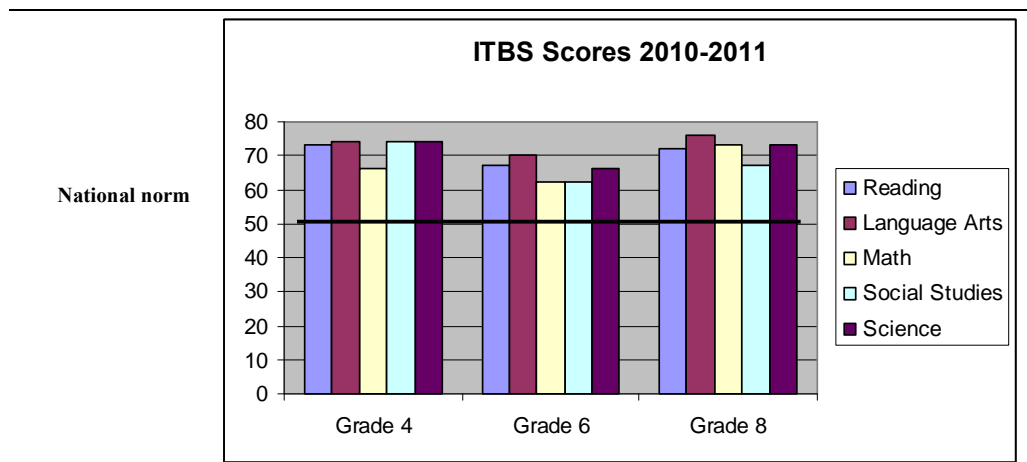


Academics / Standardized Test Results

The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Sacramento offer a comprehensive education that forms graduates who are: active Christians, effective communicators, lifelong learners, problem solvers, respectful citizens and persons of integrity. Our schools are dual accredited by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). We consistently have a 99% high school graduation rate and almost all of our seniors go on to college. Students in our elementary schools achieve higher than average scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), a nationally standardized test that is taken by millions of other students across the country.

All students in grades 3-8 of the Sacramento Diocesan Elementary Schools take the ITBS Standardized Tests in the fall. Students from all across the country take the same tests and, by comparing their scores, a national norm is established, which indicates the progress that students at different grade levels are making. This national norm is always set at 50, so scoring above 50 indicates students are progressing more rapidly than the norm, and scoring below 50, indicates that they are progressing more slowly. A score that is 7 or more points higher than the norm shows a significant difference in progress.



We realize that many hold test scores as important measures of performance, but we know they only tell part of the story. We are interested in how our individual children learn and in helping them to succeed to the best of their abilities. We want to make sure every child is challenged and will learn more than the facts and questions that might appear on the next standardized test. They need to be able to read and write well, to understand large concepts in science and math, and to discuss ideas in literature and social studies. They need to be able to see the connection between what they are studying and the world around them so that they will be prepared for the challenges that lie ahead of them.

The ability of each of our students to do his/her personal best begins with high quality teachers and strong leaders. It also takes parents who are willing to be involved, and the atmosphere of being around other motivated students who care about school. If you want your child to achieve the goals we have listed above and not just test well, consider what our Catholic schools have to offer.