

Dear STA Parents,

St. Thomas Aquinas School continues its tradition of academic excellence with **91% of students in grades 3-8 passing both parts** of the ISTEP+ test! This is an improvement from last year's score of 90%. **It is also STA's highest score EVER!** In addition, **100% of our 7th and 8th graders who took the Algebra I ECA (9th grade math) passed;** STA's previous ECA achievement record was 89%.

English 2014	3	4	5	6	7	8
St. Thomas Aq.	100%	89%	84%	100%	89%	91%
State Average	*	*	*	*	*	*

Math 2014	3	4	5	6	7	8
St. Thomas Aq.	100%	93%	92%	100%	78%	87%
State Average	*	*	*	*	*	*

Science 2014	4	6	Social Studies 2014	5	7
St. Thomas Aq.	93%	96%	St. Thomas Aq.	76%	83%
State Average	*	*	State Average	*	*

*The Indiana Department of Education has not released state-wide ISTEP+ data at this time.

The STA faculty leadership team of Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Denton, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Valdiserri met with me to review our data from a programmatic and systemic view. Based on this data analysis, the teachers will be focusing on the **Writing Process** as an English/Language Arts area for improvement. This includes age/grade appropriate study to create coherent documents by planning, drafting, revising, editing and collaborating with others. Teachers will use the research-based strategies found in the 6+1 Writing Approach.

The area of improvement for Math is **Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability**. This includes age / grade appropriate study of these items: sorting and classifying items by attributes; organizing and interpreting data; constructing a variety of graphs; using data to solve problems; formulating questions and making predictions based on data; mean, median and mode; summarizing data in a statistical way; drawing inferences from random sampling; probability of simple and compound events to occur; etc. It is important to note that not every topic will be studied at each grade level; the Indiana Academic Standards (2014) guide the age appropriateness of the study.

Much of the content of our weekly professional development meetings will focus on research-based best instructional practices and strategies to address these two areas. We know that concentrating our efforts here will make a difference for our kids. **Last year our lowest areas were Literary Text and Number Sense.** STA focused on those areas for 2013-2014 and saw a dramatic increase as a result. Our scores indicate Literary Text is the highest area for several grades and 4 out of 6 grades raised their Number Sense scores.

Thank you to our students who have worked hard to learn and to show what they know! Thank you to our dedicated faculty and staff whose expertise is beyond compare! Thank you to our parents who make education a priority for their children! Thank you to our parish for supporting STA's educational ministry! Well done, Tigers!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Swinefurth, Principal