

Sharing our Provincial Achievement Test Results for 2017

We have a strong tradition of excellence here at Sturgeon Heights School. Our teachers have high expectations and continue to encourage and challenge our students in engaging learning environments. In turn, our students are inquisitive and engaged learners who continue to amaze us in with the work they do throughout the year. In 2017 our results continue to be strong when considered as an average across all core subjects. However, we have seen a trend downward in Mathematics 6 results. We are now at average for Acceptable Standard and below for Standard of Excellence. Our grade 6 teachers have had time to analyze these results and are meeting with their division colleagues to address this trend and look for better ways to prepare our students for this evaluation and entrance in to Junior High. In addition, we are well above provincial Acceptable Standard in LA 9, but have seen a dramatic drop in Excellence at this level. Each subject area has also met to discuss trends and look for ways to improve our practice in relation to preparing students for all provincial achievement tests. These results are also presented each year to our School Council.

Test Written in English	% of Students Achieving the Acceptable Standard*		% of Students meeting the Standard of Excellence*	
	Sturgeon Heights	All of Alberta	Sturgeon Heights	All of Alberta
Grade 3				
LA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Math				
Grade 6				
LA	97.2	82.5	16.7	18.9
Math	69.4	69.4	5.6	12.6
Science	88.9	76.9	36.1	29.0
Social	83.3	72.9	22.2	21.7
Grade 9				
LA	88.9	76.8	3.7	14.9
Math	92.6	67.2	29.6	19.0
Science	96.3	74.0	22.2	21.4
Social	77.8	67.0	18.5	20.2

*Standards achieved by all students; excused students reported as achieving 0 on the test.

Information related to Student Learning Assessments

All parents should know that education in the province of Alberta is moving away from provincial achievement exams in favor of assessment that is aligned with growth and emerging curriculum. As we want our students to be engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit we will need better ways to assess them and report their progress. This movement has already begun with our grade 3 students who now write Student Learning Assessments at the beginning of their year instead of the PATs. When this new style of assessment is providing clear and reliable information to our teachers, students and families, the province will be phasing out provincial achievement exams in 6, and 9, and instead have student learning assessments at the beginning of those grades. This should provide teachers, students, and parents with a better understanding early in the year and create opportunities for growth. The new assessment will also help educators and parents understand how well students demonstrate competencies such as creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving. For more information, please go to the Alberta Education website, or their specific press release on the new exams; <http://bit.ly/PAT-press>. I would also invite anyone to drop by or call the school for further discussion in this area.