



Academic Success

April 11, 2011

Students of Khalsa School Calgary have experienced exceptional success in all areas of academic life during the past year. Consistent with the School's philosophy, we continued our quest for constant improvement and excellence. We are very pleased to see students respond so positively to the challenges that have been placed before them.

Provincial Achievement Test Results were released, and we were very pleased with the accomplishments of our Grade Three and Six students. Within our school, these are the only grade levels that write the provincial tests.

Provincial Achievement Test Results

	School	Province
Grade 3 English Percentage of Students Writing	100%	91.1%
Percentage at Acceptable Standard	80%	81.6%
Percentage at Standard of excellence	10%	19.5%
Below Acceptable Standard	20%	9.8%
Grade 3 Math Percentage of Students Writing	100%	86.8%
Percentage at Acceptable Standard	90%	75.3%
Percentage at Standard of excellence	15%	25.4%
Below Acceptable Standard	10%	11.6%
Grade 6 Math Percentage of Students Writing	100%	87.0%
Percentage at Acceptable Standard	87.5%	72.8%
Percentage at Standard of excellence	31.3%	16.3%
Below Acceptable Standard	12.5%	14.2%
Grade 6 English Percentage of Students Writing	100%	90.7%
Percentage at Acceptable Standard	75%	83.3%
Percentage at Standard of excellence	18.8%	19.5%
Below Acceptable Standard	25.0%	7.4%

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Grade 6 Social	Percentage of Students Writing	100%	89.8%
	Percentage at Acceptable Standard	75%	70.9%
	Percentage at Standard of excellence	25%	16.7%
	Below Acceptable Standard	25%	18.8%
Grade 6 Science	Percentage of Students Writing	100%	89.9%
	Percentage at Acceptable Standard	87.5%	81.6%
	Percentage at Standard of excellence	10%	19.5%
	Below Acceptable Standard	20%	9.8%

Factors that influence Provincial testing outcomes at Khalsa School Calgary:

- Every student at Khalsa School Calgary **must** write the exams no matter what their ability level is. Approximately ten percent of students within the Province are excused for various reasons.
- The first language of ninety percent of our students in Kindergarten is Punjabi, and many of our families in all grades are new Canadians. Although we have Punjabi Language classes, students are taught in English and tested in English.
- Provincial Testing is considered an essential part of the learning process in our School; and every student must challenge themselves to excel to the best of their ability.
- In the older grades as much as seventy percent of the student body in any class is identified as having a language other than English as the primary language spoken at home. This affects the testing results achieved, especially if nuances of meaning are part of the testing process.
- Based on students reaching acceptable standards, Khalsa School Calgary is significantly ahead of the average Provincial outcomes, in Math and Science by 88.3% compared to 76.6%.
- Considering all Provincial Achievement Tests written by our students, we find 82.5 percent of students from the School reach the acceptable standard, while within the total Provincial student population 77.5 percent reach the acceptable standard.
- Although there is much more work to be done to raise our academic standards in the future, we are very pleased with the effort students are putting into their studies in order to excel. This is especially so given that every student, even those with learning or language difficulties are required by the School to write the exams.

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The Fraser Institute: Each year the Fraser Institute averages all student marks for those who write the Provincial Achievement Tests, and then ranks schools based on the exam marks. **This process makes no allowance for the percentage of students who do, or who don't write the exams, and each year one core subject is omitted when determining rankings.** This year Math was left out of their calculations. These two factors skew the results so severely that rankings can be invalid. The School strongly feels that the Provincial Achievement Tests, and the Fraser Institutes rankings, are an excellent challenge for all students, unless the teacher identifies that the testing process is not in the best interest of the student.

If Khalsa School Calgary excluded students who are on Individual Program Plans (students with exceptional or unique learning needs), and Math marks were considered in the calculation, the School's ranking would be in the top quartile (top 25%), at least. If you have any question concerning Khalsa School Calgary's academic successes, please contact Mr. Simms at your earliest convenience.

Steps in Khalsa School Calgary's Planning and Questing for continued growth of excellence in every subject area:

- a. Small Class Sizes – averaging less than eighteen students
- b. Use of an exceptionally large number of highly qualified Teacher Assistants who are often qualified teachers - some of whom have a master's degree.
- c. Utilization of cutting edge technology, including Smart Boards, and computer assisted learning processes, accessible from home or anywhere there is internet service.
- d. Specialized tutorials and mentoring
- e. Specially structured classes that include balanced literacy, parallel timetabling, and other special supports where needed.

Every effort is made to respect the learning needs of the individual student and provide each student with the opportunity to maximize their abilities and talents.

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