



CANADIAN TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS

SUMMARY OF STANDARDIZED TESTING

ORANGEVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

1. PURPOSES OF THE CANADIAN TESTS OF BASIC SKILLS

The main reason that we participate in standardized achievement tests is to gather information that can help us to improve teacher instruction and student learning.

The Canadian Tests of Basic Skills provide information to schools about student achievement in very specific areas of academic skill development. The test scores are compared to the scores of other students. This comparison can be very useful to schools and in determining the quality of the school program and instruction, and the level of student achievement.

- The CTBS results indicate **how well a student is doing relative to the other students in the class**. Parents can ask the school to provide this information.
- The test scores **compare a student's scores with the national norm**.
- Using the class composite scores, **the class can be compared to other classes** in OACS and across Canada using the CTBS national norms.
- Achievement levels make it possible to **compare the class results to classes in other OACS schools** (the system comparison).
- By analyzing the pattern of the school results, strengths and weaknesses can be recognized.
- Teachers can also use the results to do an error analysis and so determine if curriculum changes need to be made or whether a particular group of students requires additional instruction.

2. USING THE CTBS

The achievement testing used by OACS is the nationally recognized Canadian Tests of Basic Skills, Form K, using the Fall Norms. The tests are published by ITP Nelson, Toronto, 1998. The CTBS is a norm-referenced achievement battery of tests allowing students to be compared with other students and schools to be compared to other schools.

The tests provide information about student achievement in the following areas:

Vocabulary,

Reading,

Language: spelling, capitalization, punctuation, usage & expression,

Mathematics: concepts & estimation, problem solving, computation,

Science,

Sources of Information: reference materials, maps & diagrams.

The scoring of the tests is done by ITP Nelson with the same analysis and report-generating software it uses for all schools across Canada.

- A **national percentile rank (NPR)** shows a student's relative position in a group of students who are in the same grade and who were tested at the same time of the year.
- A **system percentile rank** indicates how students at one school compare with students in the same grade in other OACS schools (available to parents)
- A **local percentile rank** shows a student's rank among his/her grade-level peers within the same school.