



Waterloo Catholic  
District School Board

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## News Release

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For immediate release

# Catholic Board's Students Shine in 2012 Grade 10 Literacy Test Scores exceed provincial average by up to 8%

**Waterloo Region, ON** – Grade 10 students in Waterloo Region's five Catholic secondary schools have met or exceeded the provincial average on literacy test scores according to the 2012 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results released today by *Ontario's Education Quality & Accountability Office* (EQAO). A total of 1,625 WCDSB students wrote the test. Highlights include:

- ✓ WCDSB's overall success rate on the OSSLT for fully participating students was 85% -- compared to 82% provincially;
- ✓ This year's success rate for WCDSB students bettered by two percent the Board's average success rate over the last four years;
- ✓ Fifty-one percent of those taking the test were male and 49% were female. WCDSB's results for both female and male students were three percent higher than the provincial average;
- ✓ In terms of success by gender, the success rate for male students increased for the second year in a row (from 79% in 2011 to 81% this year), while 89% of female students were successful. The rate of success for female students has increased by a steady one percent per year for each the last five years;
- ✓ Sixty-two percent of the Board's students with special needs (excluding gifted) were successful on the test -- a five percent increase over 2011. The provincial success rate for students with special needs this year was 52%.

### Interesting facts that need to be considered as the Board looks at next steps:

- ✓ Greater use of assistive technologies is required for students requiring accommodations especially those with an *Individual Education Plan* (IEP) or working under an *Identification, Placement & Review Committee* (IPRC) (e.g. (*Dragon, Kurzweil, Word Q*);
- ✓ Seven percent more boys than girls regularly access non-fiction reading resources as a choice, while 19% more boys than girls rely on instructional manuals and "how to" resources for reading materials;
- ✓ Ninety-four percent of students reported using e-mail and text messaging as a primary mode of written communication;
- ✓ Fifteen percent of students who took the test speak another language (or languages) as often as English at home – five percent reported speaking only or mostly a language (or languages) other than English at home.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 176-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: @WCDSBNewsWire.

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