

Each year Grades Five and Eight take the Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education test, commonly referred to as the ACRE . This assessment is provided by the National Catholic Education Association. Its purpose is to:

- Serve as a tool for assessing the effectiveness of catechetical/religious education programs,
- Offer a picture of where grade five and grade eight students are in terms of their basic religious knowledge,
- Assess the beliefs, practices and attitudes of the students in these grades, and
- Provide information on the strength and weaknesses of our religious education programs.

I am pleased to share the highlights of our ACRE results:

1. Faith Knowledge

Fifth Grade

- 92% scored at a proficient level or above in the area of Faith Knowledge.
- 39.7% of this number had an advanced score.
- The national average overall was 71.2%.
- The Archdiocese average was 76.2%

Eighth Grade

- 91% scored at a proficient level or above in the area of Faith Knowledge.
- 31.4 % of this number had an advanced score.
- The national average overall was 70.6%.
- The Archdiocese average was 71.9%.

2. Responses to Affective Statements

Responses to affective statements in regard to; Personal Beliefs, Attitudes, Practices & Perceptions.

Statement	8 th Grade	5 th Grade
Indicated personal safety is not a problem	100%	94%
Indicated it is wrong to copy a friend's homework	87%	97%
Indicated it is wrong to try drugs	93%	84%
Indicated they attend Sunday Mass	96%	97%
Indicated belong to an excellent parish	80%	94%
Indicated that students here really care about each other	80%	94%

3. Student Concerns

Students were asked to indicate to what extent the following statements are a problem at school. Students answer choices were: not a problem, minor problem, a big problem.

Statement	8 th Grade Responses			5 th Grade Responses		
	No Problem	Minor Problem	Big Problem	No Problem	Minor Problem	Big Problem
Teasing, bullying, name-calling	24 %	66 %	10 %	23 %	47 %	30 %
Cheating, lack of honesty	12 %	75 %	13 %	39 %	34 %	27 %
Cursing, blasphemy, swearing	28 %	59 %	13 %	39 %	30 %	31 %
Fighting	79 %	21 %	0 %	54 %	20 %	26 %
Drugs & Alcohol	94 %	6 %	0 %	68 %	2 %	30 %

4. Result Review

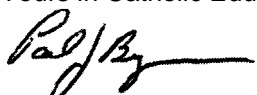
In reviewing the results and data from the ACRE, one thing is obvious. Our religious instruction is very good.

The statements from the students on "Student Concerns" did draw my attention. The large percentage of "Big Problem" responses in the five areas by our Fifth Grade students surprised me. I held a class meeting with Grade Five to discuss their responses and to gain some clarity on how they viewed the "Big Problem" areas. For example, in our discussion, they correlated fighting with arguing. At the meeting, they indicated they have not seen any full-fledged fights, but construe arguing, pushing, and shoving on the playground as "fighting".

Additionally, they indicated that in no way have they witnessed alcohol or drugs at BLS, but that talk of these things does occur on the buses and at the public school drop-off areas. In my opinion, it is never too early to discuss the issues of drugs and alcohol. Our kids are bombarded with the evils of the drug culture. Though they do not see it as a problem at BLS, (which is what the question alluded to) they do see it as a problem in our society.

I do not personally see problems in these areas at BLS, but it is something to keep in the forefront. The students did indicate that most of these problems occur either on the bus or on the playground. As a building administrator, I can never become complacent on the perceptions of our students and their feelings and I will remain alert to potential problem areas.

Yours in Catholic Education,



Paul Beyerle, Principal