

## North Star Charter Schools Science Program

This last spring students took their first official Science ISAT with cut scores. This means we finally have a measuring stick to identify how we are doing, both at the student level and as a comparison to other schools in our district and around the state. The North Star Charter science program was developed using what research has found to be the most effective method of teaching science. Students are not left to learn about the world around them solely through reading about it, but rather through experimenting and using hands-on exploration and inquiry to develop their understand of science. What we found when we analyzed the results of the first Science ISAT has reaffirmed our belief that hands-on science is the most valuable way to introduce and teach students about the scientific world around them.

Analysis of the spring 2007 Science ISAT scores indicates that our fifth grade class had the highest average score in the entire state of Idaho! With 0% of our students below basic and 48.4% of our students performing at an advanced level! Our average student score was 214. This average is one point below advanced level.

			Average Scale Score	Number Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced
1	Meridian Joint District	North Star Charter School	214	31	0	19.4	32.3	48.4
2	Pocatello District	Tendoy Elementary	214	43	0	16.3	44.2	37.5
3	Genesee Joint District	Genesee School	214	27	0	3.7	66.7	29.6
4	McCall-Donnelly District	Donnelly Elementary	213	25	0	24	28	48
5	Madison District	Madison Middle School/5th	213	312	1	20.2	43.6	35.3
6	Whitepine Joint School District	Deary School	213	18	0	27.8	38.9	33.3
7	Twin Falls District	Sawtooth Elementary	213	101	1	12.9	53.5	32.7
8	Boise Independent District	Adams Elementary	213	44	0	18.2	50	31.8
9	Boise School District	Riverside	212	87	0	21.8	40.2	37.9
10	Rolling Hills Public Charter	Rolling Hills Public Charter	212	32	3.1	18.8	46.9	31.3
11	Moscow District	Lena Whitmore Elementary	212	42	4.8	16.7	47.6	31
12	Coeur D' Alene District	Dalton Elementary	212	87	0	23	48.3	28.7
13	Dietrich District	Dietrich School	212	15	0	13.3	60	26.7
14	Boise Independent District	Longfellow Elementary	212	28	0	17.9	60.7	21.4
15	Lake Pend Oreille District	Washington Elementary	211	45	2.2	20	40	37.8
16	Pocatello District	Chubbuck Elementary	211	82	8.5	28	26.8	36.6
17	Meridian Joint District	Joplin Elementary	211	79	3.8	25.3	36.7	34.2
18	Bonneville Joint District	White Pine Charter	211	48	4.2	25	37.5	33.3
19	Lakeland District	Athol Elementary	211	59	1.7	27.1	40.7	30.5
20	Idaho Falls District	Sunnyside Elementary	211	66	3	21.2	45.5	30.3

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade class had the 2nd highest average score in the Treasure Valley and the 10<sup>th</sup> highest in the state! – Not bad. Over one third of the seventh grade class (37.8%) tested at advanced level.

			Average Scale Score	Number Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced
1	Camas County District	Camas County Elementary - Jr. High	219	15	0	13.3	46.7	40
2	Bonneville Joint District	White Pine Charter School	218	18	11.1	16.7	5.6	66.7
3	Cambridge Joint District	Cambridge Jr - Sr High	218	12	0	25	25	50
4	Moscow District	Moscow Jr. High	218	196	13.8	17.9	20.4	48
5	Meridian Joint District	Lowell Scott Middle	217	400	15.5	18.8	23.5	42.3
6	West Side School	Harold B Lee Middle	217	37	10.8	18.9	32.4	37.8
7	Wilder District	Wilder Middle - High School	217	28	32.1	28.6	28.6	10.7
8	Nez Perce Joint District	Nez Perce School	216	14	14.3	21.4	21.4	42.9
9	Cottonwood Joint District	Prairie Middle School	216	30	20	20	20	40
10	Meridian Joint District	North Star Charter	216	32	9.4	28.1	25	37.5
11	North Gem District	North Gem Elementary - Jr. High	216	16	6.3	37.5	18.8	37.5
12	Boise Independent District	Hillside Jr. High	216	144	17.4	23.6	22.2	36.8
13	Inspire Virtual Charter	Inspire Virtual Charter	216	11	27.3	18.2	18.2	36.4
14	Madison District	Madison Middle	216	298	18.5	20.5	25.5	35.6
15	Genesee District	Genesee School	216	29	6.9	27.6	31	34.5
16	Meridian Joint District	Eagle Middle	216	360	15.3	26.1	25.6	33.1
17	Meadow Valley District	Meadow Valley School	216	17	23.6	11.8	35.3	29.4
18	Meridian Joint District	Christine Donnell School of Arts	216	24	20.8	20.8	29.2	29.2
19	Kootenai District	Kootenai Jr - Sr. High	216	23	13	43.5	17.4	26.1
20	Grace Joint District	Grace Jr - Sr High	215	28	10.7	28.6	28.6	32.1

(Note: Schools were ranked using the following criteria. They were first sorted by “Average Scale Score”, then by % of students performing at “Advanced” level, and lastly by percentage of students performing at “Proficient” level).

At North Star Charter School we are committed to providing our students with experiences in science that will help them to develop a passion for learning and the ability to excel in science. This commitment will continue and changes have already begun to move North Star to the top in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and maintain our position at the top in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

### What about this fall’s Science ISATs?

This fall’s Science ISAT scores are not available for comparison yet. As they become available we will be analyzing them as well.

### **How do the fall Science ISATs differ from the spring?**

It is important to remember that the Fall ISATS incorporate a portion of material that your students have not been taught yet, think about it like a pre-test.

### **Why give a test that includes materials that students haven't been exposed to yet?**

The Fall test is beneficial for two major reasons: 1.) It gives us insight into how well your student is retaining material that has previously been taught 2.) It gives us a baseline for measuring how much growth has occurred over the course of one year, from fall to spring.

### **Are all grades given an ISAT in science?**

Only the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades are tested in science with the ISAT. Each of these grades take the Science ISAT in the fall and spring.

If you have any additional questions or concerns about the North Star Science program or the Science ISAT please contact Jill Hettinger at [jhettinger@northstarcharter.org](mailto:jhettinger@northstarcharter.org)