



# MEDIA RELEASE

Upper Grand District School Board

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For Immediate Release

Date: September 17, 2008

## EQAO RESULTS RELEASED TODAY FOR UPPER GRAND SCHOOLS

**Guelph, Ontario:** Upper Grand students are maintaining overall achievement levels in the Education Quality and Accountability Office's (EQAO) assessments of grade 3 and grade 6 reading, writing and math and grade 9 mathematics.

The grade 9 academic math results held steady over last year with 77% of students attaining the provincial standard. Students in the applied course scored 47%, a full 13% above the provincial average.

The reading, writing and math skills of students in grades 3 and 6 closely match provincial results in all areas but grade 3 writing. However, students who are now in grade 6 have improved their skills in reading and writing since they were in grade 3. In 2005 61% of grade 3 students met or exceeded the writing standard, and those same students have increased their scores to 69% in grade 6.

"Teachers have been focusing on reading and writing skills in the elementary grades as a result of the Ministry of Education's emphasis on literacy," said Bob Borden, chair of the board. "The results show that this has made a difference as children have improved their skills between grades 3 and 6. But we will continue to target those areas that need additional attention."

At the secondary level, schools are developing links between their teachers and those in the elementary feeder schools. By collaborating on projects and making good use of data analysis there have been significant gains in the achievement of students in the math assessments.

"We have seen some of our high schools greatly improve their grade 9 math results in both the academic and applied levels," Borden remarked. "We are concentrating our efforts at moving students who are currently at level two, into the level three provincial standard."

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The assessments are designed to measure how well students are doing based on the expectations in The Ontario Curriculum. Two-thousand two-hundred and thirty-one grade 3 students and 2,418 grade 6 students wrote the tests in May 2008 at 56 schools in the board's jurisdiction. Grade 9 students in semester one wrote their assessments in January 2008, and semester two students participated in May 2008.

There will be a thorough analysis of all the elementary and secondary assessment data to help schools to continue to identify areas of focus and to develop plans to improve student learning.

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Results for Upper Grand schools are attached and available on the board's website: [www.ugdsb.on.ca](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca). Additional information for parents including "Six Questions to Ask When Looking at Your School's Results" is available on the EQAO website: [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).