

# Halton's Catholic student score above Ontario literacy average

**Boasts overall pass rate of 92%**

**By Tina Depko**  
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

Grade 10 students in the Halton Catholic District School Board have demonstrated they are above average when it comes to literacy.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Results for 2008 were released this week, with 92 per cent of students in the Catholic board passing the test. This was well above the provincial average of 84 per cent.

It's an important accomplishment, according to Rick MacDonald, superintendent of education, curriculum services with the Halton Catholic District School Board.

"I think this speaks well for the board and we're extremely proud of the results," he said.

More than 2,200 students in the region's seven Catholic high

schools wrote the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test in March.

The Halton Catholic board's success rate is up three per cent from last year's success rate of 89 per cent. The increase reflects the dedication of the high schools, MacDonald said.

"I think the teachers and the principals deserve praise, as well as the central office staff because they are providing support to the schools," he said. "It is a concerted effort, from senior administration to the classroom teachers. Everybody in the system embraces the concept of student improvement."

MacDonald said that the students' success is also reliant on solid instruction in younger grades.

"We have to remember that these students are in the system from Kindergarten to Grade 12, so I think we have to congratulate our elementary teachers and principals as well," he said.

This year's breakdown of students successfully completing

the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test in Halton by school is: Assumption (Burlington) — 93 per cent, Bishop Reding (Milton) — 88 per cent, Christ the King (Halton Hills) — 92 per cent, Holy Trinity (Oakville) — 92 per cent, Notre Dame (Burlington) — 91 per cent, St. Ignatius of Loyola (Oakville) — 94 per cent and St. Thomas Aquinas (Oakville) — 90 per cent.

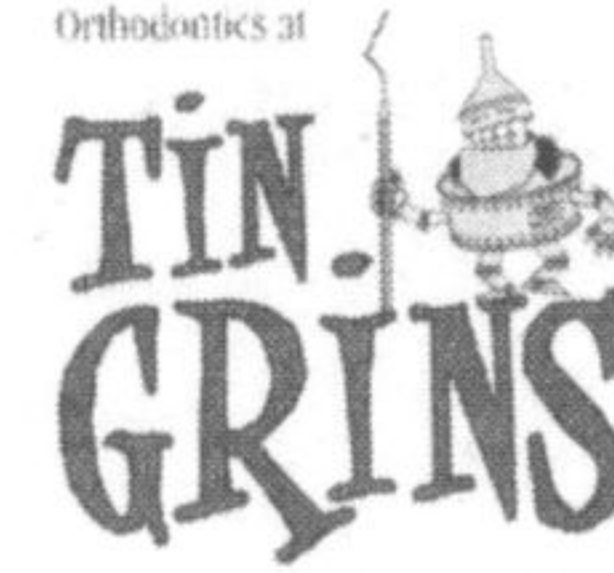
The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test is a mandatory requirement in provincial high schools. The test consists of multiple choice, short essay and long essay questions in various categories, such as reading and writing. While some parents and educators have voiced concern against standardized testing, MacDonald said it is an invaluable tool in tweaking the curriculum to ensure students are up to provincial literacy standards.

"The test is used to measure • see TEST on page A13

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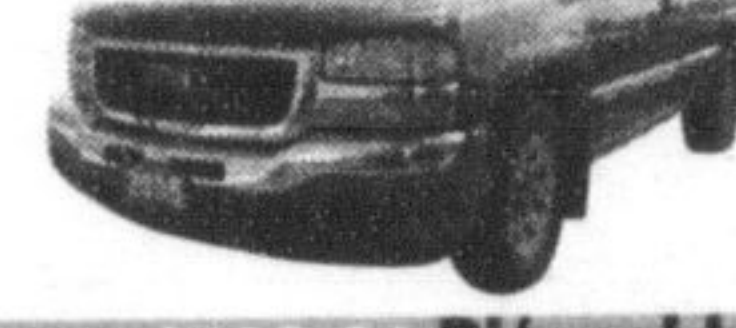
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