

Dear OPA Parents,

The results of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills are in! Below is a chart comparing OPA students to the statewide percentile ranks on this nationally normed test. Students in grades 3, 5, and 8 took this test at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

The Iowa allows a comparison of achievement of Utah students to the achievement of a diverse and nationally representative group of students of statistically significant size. On this test, the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile represents the national average.

You can find more information about these scores if you go to:

[www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/Documents/Results\\_IOWA\\_Detail\\_2004.doc](http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/Documents/Results_IOWA_Detail_2004.doc).

	OPA	Utah	OPA	Utah	OPA	Utah
	Grade 3	Grade 3	Grade 5	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 8
Reading	62	57	53	55	62	60
Lang Arts	55	46	50	51	52	53
Math	54	47	48	52	48	53
Core Total	56	50	50	52	55	54
Soc. Studies	71	60	53	53	70	51
Science	72	63	68	64	73	65
Composite	65	57	56	57	62	57

When we grouped the three grades together, 35% of all students scored in the top ten percent of the nation. What an accomplishment! Over 70% of these students have been with us multiple years. We are very proud of their accomplishments.

We have areas that we need to aggressively address to increase student achievement. We will be working with students to help them become more proficient, but we need your help. Here are some suggestions:

- Require your student to read at least 30 minutes each day.
- Listen to your student read and ask questions about what he/she read.
- Encourage your student to write – thank you notes, letters to family, daily journals. Expect them to use correct language skills, i.e. punctuation, capitalization, spelling, complete sentences.
- Work on multiplication tables in grades 3 and 5.
- Check planners daily to ensure homework is being done.

Together we can move your student to increased academic achievement. This type of success can open doors for any child.

Thank you,

Kathy Thornburg