



**The Principal's Newsletter**  
February 19, 2016



**Educating \* Mind \* Heart \* Spirit**

*"The Lord is mine and I am His"*



**Everyone on the staff is united in the belief that every child is a treasure, created by a loving God, in God's own image, a little less than the angels and crowned with glory and honor. Every teacher is united in the belief that each child has been endowed by God with varied gifts and talents and works tirelessly to maximize these God-given talents with a philosophy of continuous progress. And every child is encouraged to do his/her part so as feel God's pleasure in doing so.**

**Each year we are required to make our stakeholders aware of our annual progress as measured by the Iowa Assessments. Following are the results of Iowa Assessments for the 2015-2016 school year.**

### **Annual Progress Report**

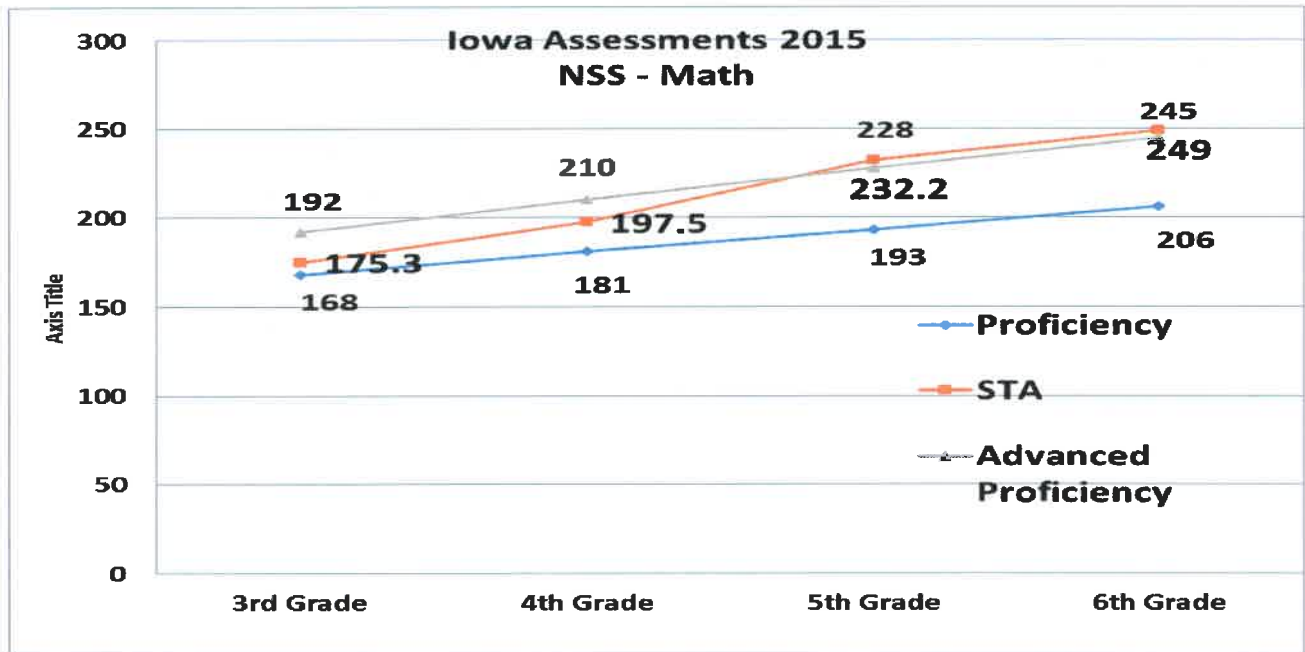
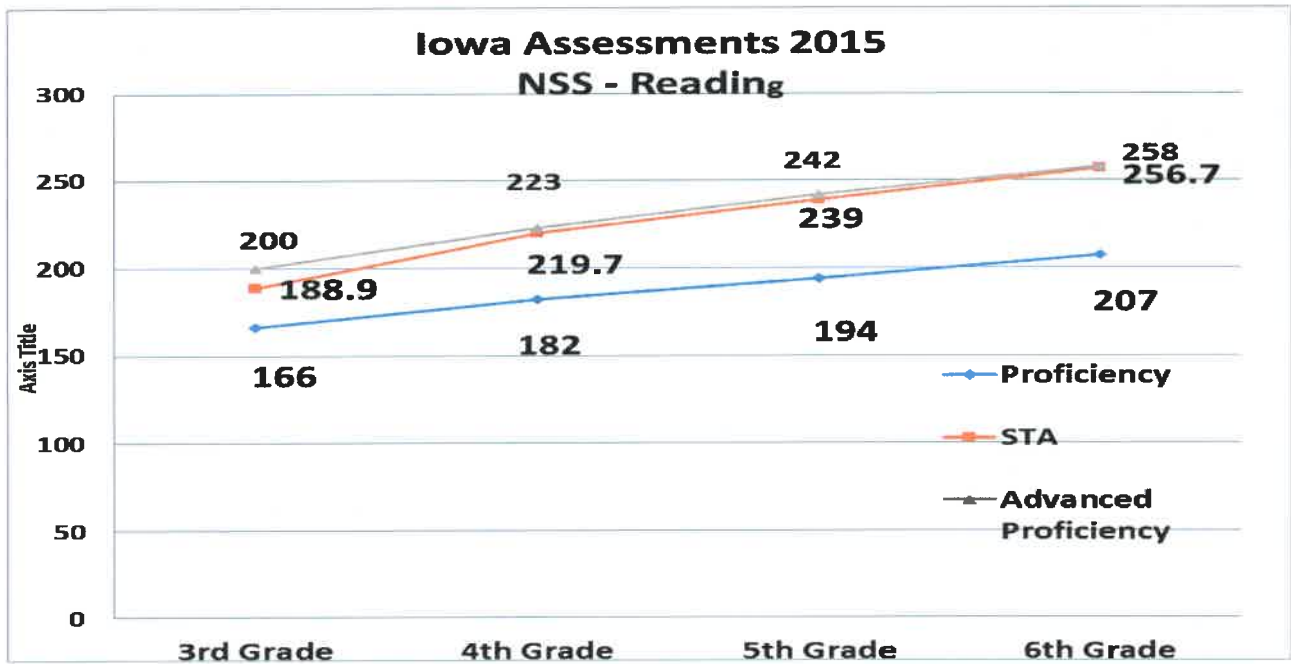
#### **Assessing the Iowa Core**

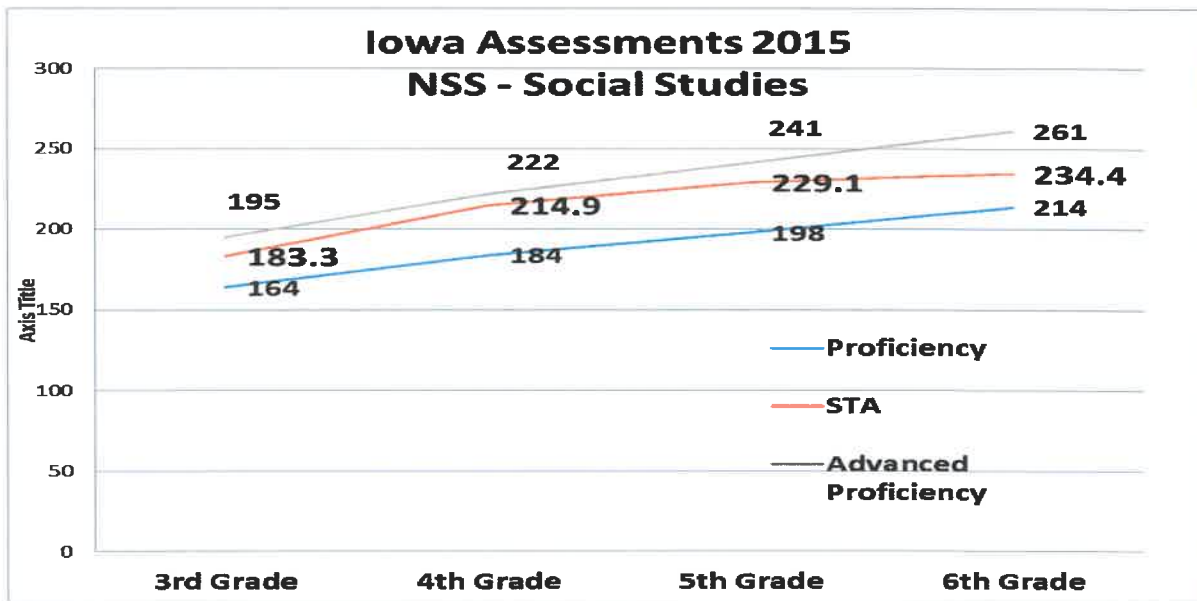
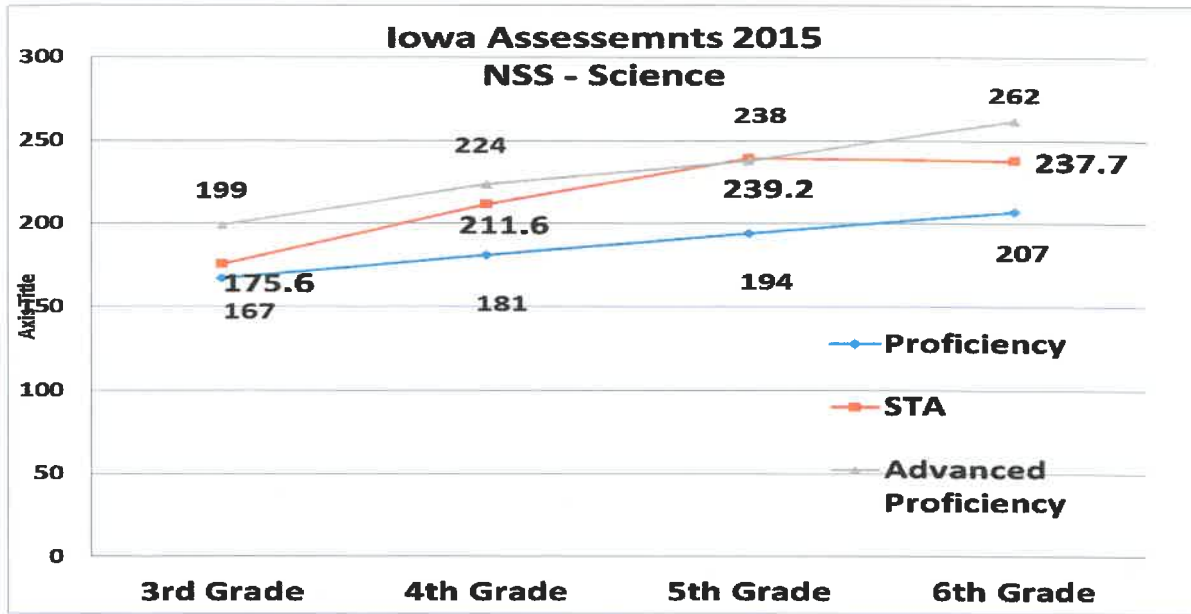
The Iowa Assessments test replaced the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. The *Iowa Assessments* measure key elements of the Iowa Core. Student academic growth is monitored based on something called a "standard score."

#### **National Standard Score (NSS)**

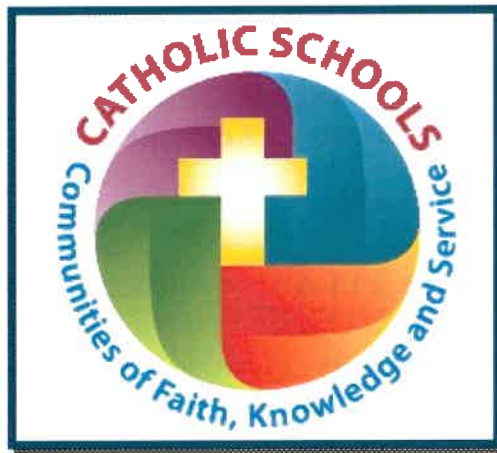
The **National Standard Score**, or NSS, describes performance on a continuum from kindergarten through high school. The continuum is based on scores from testing thousands of students and determining where students at certain grade levels fall within a range. The achievement continuum connected with the Iowa Assessments is divided into three categories: Non Proficient, Proficient, and Advanced. Using the NSS achievement continuum allows teachers and parents to track not only proficiency at a test time, but year-to-year growth.

See the following results for grades three through six in reading, math, science, and social studies. Graphed are NSS scores that indicate proficiency and advanced proficiency. Our student scores are indicated as STA and the results are from the tests taken in the fall of 2015.





**In all areas, note the proficiency level and how our students, in all areas, exceed.**



**We celebrated Catholic Schools Week January 31 through February 6.**

**This was the 42<sup>nd</sup> year that the 6,500 Catholic schools across the nation celebrated the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools play in providing a curriculum infused with Gospel values for America's young people. The 42<sup>nd</sup> year of national celebration; however, the 1<sup>st</sup> Catholic school was established in the New World in 1606 by the Franciscans – 410 years ago. The forerunner of our Catholic schools today was opened in 1808 in Baltimore by Elizabeth Ann Seton – 208 years ago. So Catholic schools have a long history of forming the whole child so that they become good citizens of this world, loving God and neighbor, and enriching society with the leaven of the Gospel, and who will also be citizens of the world to come, thus fulfilling their destiny to become saints. That's what we're all about.**

**As the U.S bishops stated in To Teach as Jesus Did and again in Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium, “The integration of religious truth and values with life distinguishes the Catholic school from other schools. ...These schools supply a diversity which the American educational system would otherwise lack. They provide desirable competition for the public schools, not as antagonists, but as partners in the total educational enterprise. In a unique way our schools serve the community by keeping viable the right to freedom of choice under law among educational alternatives. Most important, the commitment of Catholic schools to Christian values and the Christian moral code renders a profound service to society which depends on spiritual values and good moral conduct for its very survival.”**