

A Review of 2011 Bethel Connecticut Mastery Testing, Connecticut Academic Performance Testing, and College Advanced Placement Score Summary

We hope you will take the time to read this email carefully. It contains an overview of our 2011 Connecticut Mastery Test performance in a grade-by-grade format.

Our 2011 testing results continue an excellent overall trend. Our children remain extremely competitive both among comparable districts throughout Connecticut and in the region. Bethel teachers and principals examine these results as one tool in shaping our curriculum and instructional decisions for this school year. At the same time, we caution that any information or inferences taken from standardized testing should be limited. As you know, there is much so much more to schooling than can be measured by a single paper and pencil test administered over a few days in March.

The words ***“proficient, at goal, and advanced”*** are part of Connecticut’s testing jargon. Here, in very general terms, is how we are to interpret those terms:

When you see the term ***“proficient”*** it indicates that these students demonstrated, on this one test, *adequate* knowledge of most and *extensive* knowledge of some of the assessed content areas. For example in mathematics, these students may demonstrate limited knowledge of estimating solutions to problems, measurement, ratio, proportion and percent, but tested well overall. Students who perform at this level are likely to demonstrate an *adequate* ability to read and respond to informational and literary texts with some assistance. Students at this level use some strategies effectively before, during, and after reading to understand, interpret and evaluate text.

When you see the term ***“at goal”*** it indicates that students demonstrated, on this one test, *extensive* knowledge of most of the assessed content areas. For example in mathematics, these students may demonstrate adequate knowledge of the assessed content areas including measurement, ratio, proportion and percent. Students who perform at this level are likely to demonstrate a *consistent* ability to read and respond to informational and literary texts with minimal assistance. Students at this level, use strategies effectively before, during, and after reading to understand, interpret, and evaluate text.

When you see the term ***“advanced”*** it indicates that students demonstrate on this one test, an *exceptional* ability to read and respond to informational and literary texts without assistance. Students at this level effectively use sophisticated strategies before, during and after reading to understand, interpret and evaluate text. Generally, students who perform at this level demonstrate *extensive* knowledge of all assessed content areas.

Current 4th grade parents: Your children took the 3rd grade CMT in March 2011. These are the results for the class:

Math – 97% tested proficient. 87% of this class was at goal and 49% tested within the advanced range.

Reading – 90% tested proficient. 80% of this class was at goal and 27% tested within the advanced range.

Writing – 93% tested proficient. 83% of this class was at goal and 31% tested within the advanced range.

Commentary: Your children did a superior job! Their percentage at goal score is among Bethel’s highest math scores and ranks this group in excellent stead among children throughout Connecticut. These scores are some of the highest in the region. These students show general strength in all concepts of math that are tested. 90% of our children are proficient readers and 93% are proficient writers. There is

very high ability in reading comprehension where they did very well on all tested concepts of comprehension. Note that a large percentage of this group tested at the advanced level. This group is clearly ready for the more sophisticated expectations of the 4th grade.

Current 5th grade parents: Your children took the 4th grade CMT in March 2011. These are the results for the class:

Math – 97% tested proficient. 87% of this class was at goal and 51% tested within the advanced range.

Reading – 89% tested proficient. 77% of this class was at goal and 27% tested within the advanced range.

Writing – 97% tested proficient. 89% of this class was at goal and 57% tested within the advanced range.

Commentary: They posted maintained improved on their strong 3d grade scores. Overall, this is an exceptional group in terms of understanding their grade-level math concepts. Their reading comprehension scores showed strength in interpreting what they read and examining the structure of a story. We also very pleased that over 50% of our children scored at the advanced level in math. This demonstrates that they are well prepared to dive into more complex math this school year. The writing scores tell us that the overwhelming majority of our students are comfortable and capable writers. They go into 5th grade with a very strong foundation. This group too earned some of the highest marks in Connecticut.

Current 6th grade parents: Your children took the 5th grade CMT in March 2011. These are the results for the class:

Math – 97% tested proficient. 92% of this class was at goal and 59% tested within the advanced range.

Reading – 96% tested proficient. 93% of this class was at goal and 44% tested within the advanced range.

Writing – 95% tested proficient. 87% of this class was at goal and 58% tested within the advanced range.

Science – 97% tested proficient. 83% of this class was at goal and 50% tested within the advanced range.

Commentary:

Congratulate your children for a job done very well! This remains one of the highest performing groups in Connecticut for three consecutive years. Again, we see exceptional strength in math performance. The children demonstrated strong understanding of all important math concepts. This will serve them well at BMS where math quickly becomes more complex. Reading and writing scores indicate great confidence and ability and students capable of tackling more difficult work. In writing, the numbers indicate to us that our boys, just like all boys in the U.S.A., are more particular about what they want to read and write about, but this group of boys is doing very well. Our science scores, in the third year of testing this subject, are among the best in Connecticut. Our teachers have done extraordinary work with this curriculum and all indications seem to be that our children really like science. 50% of them are advanced!

Current 7th grade parents: Your children took the 6th grade CMT in March 2011. These are the results for the class:

Math – 97% tested proficient. 92% of this class was at goal and 59% tested within the advanced range.

Reading – 96% tested proficient. 93% of this class was at goal and 44% tested within the advanced range.

Writing – 95% tested proficient. 87% of this class was at goal and 58% tested within the advanced range.

Commentary:

These are exceptional scores on a sophisticated test! This group continues their history of testing well. These scores are significantly better than those posted on 6th grade testing in 2010. In Math, the group showed strong understanding in just about every one of the 25 concepts taught. In most math areas, almost 90% of the students answered questions correctly. This accounts for the fact that 59% of the students tested in the “advanced” range. As a group, many of these children are clearly ready for more complicated mathematical thinking. In reading, the comprehension scores were exceptional, with over 93% achieving mastery in areas tested. In writing, even though our scores far exceed comparable school districts, we see a narrowing gap between the males and females.

Current 8th grade parents: Your children took the 7th grade CMT in March 2011. These are the results for the class:

Math – 99% tested proficient. 86% of this class was at goal and 50% tested within the advanced range.

Reading – 95% tested proficient. 90% of this class was at goal and 46% tested within the advanced range.

Writing – 91% tested proficient. 73% of this class was at goal and 32% tested within the advanced range.

Commentary:

Way to go! On this test, the math becomes more sophisticated again! They maintained previous performance in math and showed very good growth in reading and writing. In critical math concept tested, this group tested very well. They need to beef up work in ratios and percentages. They demonstrated high skill levels in reading comprehension across the board. They can handle material they have to read. It is interesting to note that this class contains a very high percentage of students who performed at the advanced level on all areas tested.

Current 9th grade parents: Your children took the 8th grade CMT in March 2011. These are the results for the class:

Math – 96% tested proficient. 81% of this class was at goal and 41% tested within the advanced range.

Reading – 91% tested proficient. 87% of this class was at goal and 51% tested within the advanced range.

Writing – 91% tested proficient. 80% of this class was at goal and 37% tested within the advanced range.

Science – 89% tested proficient. 77% of this class was at goal and 17% tested within the advanced range.

Commentary:

This group should be very well prepared to tackle Bethel High. Their scores indicate that they have academic strength across the board. We know they still need work in a few math concepts (working with mixed whole numbers and decimals, for example). There are some fine writers in this group. Reading scores indicate that they should be able to tackle the more complex texts they will encounter at Bethel High. Our science scores, in the third year of testing, are quite solid. This group will have new options in freshmen science and should excel in high school sciences.

How did Bethel stack up on the Connecticut Testing compared to the 24 comparable towns identified by the State Department of Education?

Reading – Grades 3-8 Bethel was the overall highest performing district, finishing in second through seventh place on all reading scores among the 24 districts.

Math – Grades 3-8 Bethel was the overall highest performing district, finishing in first through fourth place on all mathematics scores among the 24 districts.

Writing – Grades 3-8 Bethel was the overall highest performing district, finishing in first through ninth place on all writing scores among the 24 districts.

Science – Grades 5 and 8 Bethel was the overall highest performing district, finishing in second among the 24 districts in 5th grade and tenth in 8th grade.

The Connecticut Academic Performance Testing Date (March 2011 -10th Grade)

Mathematics 91% proficient 66% at goal
 Reading 93% proficient 58% at goal
 Writing 96% proficient 76% at goal
 Science 90% proficient 58% at goal

These scores place Bethel High 10th graders in the upper third to half of the 24 comparable towns identified by the State Department of Education.

**Bethel High
 College Advanced Placement
 Score Summary (2011)**

81% of the Bethel High students who enrolled in college advanced placement courses earned credit for their participation (see the 3,4,5 scores). It costs BHS students \$90 to enroll in a BHS AP course and to take the associated test. College tuition in Connecticut ranges from approximately \$900 to \$2,200 for a 3-credit course, using current public and private university tuition rates. This represents a very significant savings to parents and just one reason why we encourage BHS students to enroll in the college opportunities we provide.

School Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Number of Exams	59	59	56	39	12	225
Percentage of Total	26	26	25	17	5	100
Subject Totals	5	4	3	2	1	Total Exams
Art History			4	2	1	7
Studio Art: 2-D Design Portfolio		1	6	4		11
Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio				2		2
English Language & Composition	3	3	3	1		10

English Literature & Composition	6	5	3			14
European History	1	5	7	1	1	15
Human Geography	4	7	4	3	1	19
Psychology	1	1				2
United States Government & Politics			1			1
United States History	3	13	7	12	1	36
Calculus AB	13	9	4			26
Calculus BC	15	2				17
Statistics	6	4	3		3	16
Chemistry	4		2	4	2	12
Physics B	3	6	9	4		22
Physics C: Mechanics		1				1
French Language			1	5		6
German Language				1		1

Quick Summary: This performance data is outstanding. When you hear or read that spending on education represents an investment, it is these numbers to which people are referring. Our goal is to provide the highest quality educational experience possible in the Bethel Public Schools. Thanks to a highly committed and well trained staff, student achievement and student opportunities have increased significantly in the past decade. Our common goal is to give each BHS graduate the tools needed to realize his/her dreams for a good and productive life. Everyone in the Town of Bethel deserves to be proud of our schools.