

Vandalia Community District #203
1109 N 8th Street
Vandalia, IL 62471
Rich Well – Supt.

News Release – PARCC Results 2015

- The number of students in our district scoring “Approaching Standards” is above the state average. Proficiency was measured on four levels in the previous assessment system. Two were considered proficient and two were not. Under PARCC, there are five levels with level three meaning a student is approaching standards and has demonstrated proficiency on some standards but maybe not every standard at the time the test was administered.
- All of our students in the district (3rd grade thru 8th grade and 10th grade) tested on-line for the very first time and for many it became a technology test as well. The 1 to 1 Computer program initiative for VCHS and district added technology classes for VES were added in 2015-2016 school year. Many districts still tested some or all of their students using the traditional paper and pencil test as we moved forward with a progressive approach for our students.
- One test does not define the teaching and learning going on in our district. We will use these results the way they are intended to be used, which is to inform curriculum decisions in ELA and Math in our district.
- We will continue to recognize that our students and staff will continue to work hard at preparing to succeed at the new standards and improve educationally to achieve higher results on the PARCC exams.
- Skills that are also taught throughout our district that are important to success in life but not tested are: Attendance, Character, Teamwork, Appearance, Attitude, Productivity, Organization, Communication, Cooperation and Respect (Vocational Education and district wide PBIS).
- The students we serve with special needs (17% of our student population) are not allowed their mandated modifications while taking the state testing per PARCC directives.
- The PARCC test is a reflection of new standards that had been put in place for less than a year and did not allow for proper preparation for students and staff.
- The PARCC results have shown a higher difficulty for poverty students throughout the state.
- The PARCC test only covers ELA and Math which is a small component of our overall educational offerings for our district. We offer many other programs throughout our district that are untested but play a major part in the overall development of the students in our community and district.
- The high school level districts were able to choose which grade level they tested, so there is great disparity in scores at the high school level. High schools could test freshmen, sophomore, or juniors. Our district chose to test sophomores.
- Receiving PARCC information in December, following the testing in the spring, does not offer timely results that could impact teaching and learning.
- "As State Superintendent Dr. Tony Smith emphasized when the statewide results were released, this is a completely different type of assessment than we've ever had and these results simply set a baseline," In addition, PARCC standards are internationally benchmarked. Previous tests were benchmarked against state standards, and this change has created a perception of lower test scores when in fact they are simply different.
- We will provide an district educational profile at an upcoming Board meeting.



“Home of the Vandals”

The Mission of the Vandalia Community School District: “To prepare the students of our community for their future so they may become responsible members of society.”