

NAEP REPORT 2012

We value our Lutheran schools because in every class, students learn the unconditional gospel of forgiveness of sins through faith in Christ Jesus. We also value them because students at our Lutheran schools receive a high-quality education to be good Christians and good citizens.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as “The Nation’s Report Card,” is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America’s students know and can do in various subject areas. How are students in our Lutheran schools doing in their training to be good citizens?

The report is in and the news is great for Lutheran schools. In five of the eight categories, Lutheran schools finished in first place among nine other groups. In the other three, Lutheran schools finished second. The groups included public schools; other religious; nonsectarian; Catholic; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Department of Defense; State Department of Education; Lutheran; and Conservative Christian.

- Lutheran schools finished first in science in the 4th, 8th and 12th grades (grades where data was gathered). In reading, Lutheran Schools finished 1st in 4th and 8th grade (data was not gathered for the 12th grade). In math, Lutheran schools finished 2nd in 4th, 8th and 12th grades.
- In 4th grade science the average Lutheran student score was 166; Catholic school students scored at 162; conservative Christian at 159; and public school students at 149.
- In 8th grade science: Lutheran -170, Catholic -166, Conservative Christian-162, and public- 149.
- In 4th grade reading: Lutheran-236, Catholic- 234, Conservative Christian- 229, and public- 217.
- In 8th grade math: Other private schools – 298, Lutheran – 296, Catholic- 289, Conservative Christian - 286, and public- 276.

Some might note that Lutheran schools have parents who are more involved. Some might say that attending a Lutheran school is a choice. Some might say that it is not fair to compare students from different types of schools because each school type is unique. There is some truth to each of these statements. Students attending Lutheran schools are often blessed to have parents who are very concerned about the education their children receive. Students attending a Lutheran school usually do so by choice. Those who do not want to take advantage of those blessings are excused from that choice. Each school and each school type is unique.

In Lutheran schools, in addition to teaching math, reading, science and all the other subjects, we have the unique privilege of sharing with students and families the most important truth of all: God has won the victory over sin and death for eternity through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Lutheran schools are great places to grow. They are not perfect. In Lutheran schools, students learn that they are forgiven and that they also forgive others because of Jesus Christ.

We give thanks to God for the grace he has shown us in allowing our students to have great testing scores. Lutheran Schools have teachers, parents, administrators, boards, congregations, and federations who continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of Lutheran education, academics, the arts, sports, social development, service to others, and creating 21st century learning environments that prepare our students for service.