



# ECS OFFICE NEWS

Home of the  
KNIGHTS!

Week of  
August 24, 2009

## Mirror 1: Standardized Tests

By ECS Headmaster Ted Trainor

Standardized tests reflect many qualities of the beholder. For instance, the standard scale in each doctor's office (my apologies to Dr. Adjei!) in every place I have ever lived has inflated my weight. These iron-age scales, those where the nurse snickers while sliding the weights to the right until the almighty bouncing ruler magically floats to my perfect weight, have been consistently off. What does this standardized measurement tool illustrate about me? A few ideas are clear to me:

1. I am gaining weight, and the scale is clearly reporting that truth over the years.
2. The scale in my home bathroom purchased at Sears may be incorrect or the doctor's scales may be incorrect.
3. I do not like to be weighed by others. My weight is a private matter. Others may or may not form opinions about me based on this measurement tool.

I like to view the ERB CTP-4 results keeping in mind observations #1 and #3 above. These

are the observations I must ponder. Let's focus on #1 first.

We have chosen the ERB CTP-4 for its challenge, its categories of measurement, its reputation, its statistical link to college bound testing tools like the PSAT and SAT, its Writing test, its testing pool of students, and a few other reasons. The test has a built in expectation that students should be "gaining weight" over the years as they are measured. What I mean to say is that on average the testers believe that students should gain 8-10 points a year in their **scale score** on Verbal Reasoning and nearly 15 points a year on their Math score. The steady, long term view is essential. Is my child gaining scale score points from year to year? This view in the mirror is important for all parents, and I imagine most parents do not know to do this. File these scores in a safe place; they will be more important as your child ages.

"I do not like to be weighed by others." Taking this out of context, one can feel the

stress in this sentence. Who likes to be judged by others? Who can control what others think? For instance, place all the students in a classroom in a line from smallest to tallest. We would have a true picture of where each child stood among his peers. The middle child, the one half-way down the line, is the average size. The student at the small end is below average and the student at the tall end is above average. These are facts. How we perceive them is usually where the mirrored facts become foggy. This is the reality and challenge presented to us in the ERB results. Who wants to be half-way up the scoring percentages in Math? Is there really a problem with being the 50% average scorer in a testing pool of students which is really strong?

I will write on this topic in future issues; stay tuned for more help on these test scores. If you would like me to meet with you personally regarding your child's scores, please let me know! I'd be glad to help.

*An egalitarian educational system is necessarily opposed to meritocracy and reward for achievement. It is inevitably opposed to procedures that might reveal differing levels of achievement.*  
**Robert Bork**

Happy Birthday  
To You!!

<b>Knox</b>	8/1
<b>1st Grade</b>	
<b>Brendon</b>	8/6
<b>5th Grade</b>	
<b>Zachary</b>	8/14
<b>1st Grade</b>	
<b>Malik</b>	8/15
<b>4th Grade</b>	
<b>Katelyn</b>	8/24
<b>10th Grade</b>	
<b>Claire</b>	8/24
<b>Pre-K Grade</b>	
<b>Trey</b>	8/25
<b>Pre-K Grade</b>	
<b>Luke</b>	8/31
<b>Kindergarten</b>	



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# Announcements



August 27th—JV Soccer Practice 3:30-5:30pm

September 1st—Progress Reports

September 2nd—Chapel Uniforms Required

September 3rd—Moms Evening Prayer (see orange form sent home today)

September 7th—Labor Day—NO SCHOOL

September 16th— School Pictures

September 18th—Fall Family Picnic 7-9pm

October 1st—Moms Evening Prayer

October 5th—9th—Fall Break

October 13th—Report Cards

October 14th—Awards Chapel 11:00am

October 20th—November hot lunch forms due

**SACS-CASI  
(Advanc-Ed)**

Accreditation Update:

Our first official onsite visit with our accrediting agency will occur this week! A representative from SACS-CASI will visit and review our first set of documentation which was compiled last school year, and begin the formal review process - a process which usually takes 18 months. We will keep you posted on our next steps in upcoming newsletters.

## Progress/ Report Cards

This year all progress reports and reports cards will be emailed.

If you do not have an email on file and would like to add it please see Christina in the office to add it. If you do not have an email your student will bring it home.

## Chapel Uniform

Don't forget to wear your Chapel Uniforms  
**NEXT Wednesday,**  
September 2.

If you have not received a tie before the required date above; please show your teacher a copy of the order form from the vendor. This will let us know that you have completed your part and are now waiting on the vendor's having the supply item you need.

## YMCA SOCCER PRACTICES

**U8**—starts this Friday, Aug. 28th 3:15pm—4:15pm

**U10**— starts this Wednesday, Aug. 26th 3:15pm—4:15pm

**U12**— starts this Wednesday, Aug. 26th 4:15pm-to 5:15pm

Practices will be twice a week at the times listed above on Wednesday and Friday.

If you have any questions please call Gina Bass (826-1951).

Students must have cleats, shin guards and water bottles. Any U12 students not picked up at the end of school will go to aftercare until practice time.

