

# **St. Matthew Lutheran School Annual Education Results Report 2007 - 2008**

## **The Mission of St. Matthew Lutheran School**

The mission of St. Matthew Lutheran School is to provide students with a quality academic education based on Scripture as God's inspired and inerrant Word, helping students to grow in their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to offer the school community the best opportunity to reach out to people with the Gospel of Jesus.

## **Statement of Responsibility for Private School Annual Education Results Reports ( ERRS )**

The Annual Education Results Report for the 2007-2008 school year was prepared under the direction of the Board of Education - St. Matthew Lutheran School in accordance with the responsibilities specified in the School Act, the Government Accountability Act, Alberta Education Policy 2.1.1 and the provincial government's accounting policies.

The Board is committed to using the results in this report, to the best of our abilities, to improve the quality of education for students in our jurisdiction. We will use the results to develop sound strategies for our three-year education plan to ensure that all our students can acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing members of society, especially in the Christian community.

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(Chairman of the Board of Education)

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(Date)

## **The Mandate of St. Matthew Lutheran School**

The mandate of St. Matthew Lutheran School is to provide a Christian Education from a Lutheran perspective, that follows the goals and objectives of Alberta Education and at the same time upholds and extends the values and principles which are taught at home and in the church. The focus is to educate the whole child; spiritually, academically and physically.

## **Contextual Information for Results Achieved**

St. Matthew Lutheran School is a ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Stony Plain Alberta. The school was established in 1905. The school is located at 5014 - 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in the heart of the Town of Stony Plain.

In 2007-2008 our student body was made up of 17 pre-school students, 24 ECS students and 107 regular students for a total of 148 students - pre-school to Grade 9. Our school community consists of a variety of families from a diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. The school's religious affiliation is with Lutheran Church Canada. Our school offers classes from pre-school to grade nine.

St. Matthew Lutheran School educates students from the philosophy of offering Academic excellence, Behavioural discipline and Christian content utilizing direct teaching methodologies. For ECS and Division 1 we place a special emphasis on an intensive phonics program utilizing the Spaulding "Writing and Spelling Road to Reading and Thinking" (WSRRT) and on a sequential math program utilizing Saxon Math instructional materials for Grades 1 to 6. We have a strong extra-curricular program that includes Sports, Music and Outdoor Education. The inter-school sports program included teams in X-Country Running, Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton and Track and Field. The music program included an elementary choir.

## **Summary of Progress and Accomplishments**

The strategies as outlined in the Three Year Education Plan for 2007 - 2010 are being implemented. As the student and home continue to be our focus, we continue to form a solid foundation between the home and school.

As a Staff and a Board we are monitoring results of student performance on an ongoing basis. Professional Development for the staff is ongoing with a focus on

the student and learning. We are always looking at ways of making learning more enjoyable - from the school environment to teaching techniques.

To determine our effectiveness as to learning enhancement, we continue to base our success on the results of the Provincial Achievement Tests and CTBS scores. As our student count in each class is quite small, the success or failure of one student really skews the results based on percentage. Therefore, percentages listed, are the average over the last five years. Based on this average, over a five year period 88.33 % of the students have attained the Provincial Standard and 19.17 % have attained Excellence.

Technology is an area that requires attention as to keeping pace with technological advancements. Through Computers for Education, we again had an upgrade for September '07. In addition we have added a fair amount of software to enhance our programs from Kindergarten to Grade 9. In order to maintain up to date hardware, it is paramount that independent schools receive the provincial technology grant as technology instruction is required by the Province of Alberta.

Once again, many new volumes of books were purchased for the Library by way of a grant from the Parent Advisory Committee and school generated funds. We have been able to retain a Library assistant and add many new titles to the existing volumes available. We currently have close to 6000 volumes in our Library. As well the 'Accelerated Reading Program' has been expanded with many more new disks and titles. This has improved the reading and research abilities a great deal. Parents, teachers and students have all responded positively as to this upgrade. The library is also supported with additional funds from the school budget.

Additional reading materials have also been purchased with funds received through the Early Literacy Program. This allows us to carry on with a strong Home Reading Program in Division 1. Again, the benefits are evident - particularly when we see all of our Division 1 students meeting the required provincial standard in Language Arts. As well, we see similar results from the CTBS scores, as the vast majority of our student show more than one year of academic growth.

Once again we had all our students participate in our local Science Fair. We had a number of students qualify for the Regional Science Symposium, however, none of them were able to attend.

## Performance Report

### Goal 1 - That St. Matthew Lutheran School Provide for High Quality Learning Opportunities For All

At St. Matthew Lutheran School we follow all standards as set out by Alberta Education ensuring that all students have every opportunity for academic success according to potential. To meet these standards, St. Matthew Lutheran has a fully qualified, certificated, competent and dedicated teaching staff at all grade levels. Teaching methodology and educational philosophy are maintained through periodic teacher in-services, staff meetings and conferences. Student performance is reviewed via Provincial Achievement Tests, CTBS and quarterly performance reports. We offer a full schedule of academic challenges with a wide variety of extra-curricular activities including sports, music and drama.

As to the summary of results based on our performance measures as outlined in our 3 year report, 88.33% of all students in all subject areas, met the standards of the Provincial Achievement Tests as outlined by Alberta Learning. While this surpasses our own goal of 85%, we have experienced a significant decline at both the Grade 6 and Grade 9 level. This is a topic that we are addressing with our staff. As well, we would like to see more of our students achieve the excellence standards. Currently only 19.2 % of our students achieve excellence. Our overall strength continues to be Mathematics.

Specific results for each Grade and Subject Area for June 2008 are as follows:

#### Grade 3 Language Arts

100% of the students wrote the test (15 of the 15)  
100% of the students met the standard  
26.7 % of the students achieved excellence

#### Grade 3 Math

100% of the students wrote the test (15 of the 15)  
100% of the students met the standard  
32.5% of the students achieved excellence

#### Grade 6 Language Arts

100% of the students wrote the test (11)  
63.6% of the students met the standard  
0 % of the students achieved excellence

### **Grade 6 Math**

100% of the students wrote the test (11)  
54.5% of the students met the standard  
0 % of the students achieved excellence

### **Grade 6 Science**

100% of the students wrote the test (11)  
72.7% of the students met the standard  
18.2% of the students achieved excellence

### **Grade 6 Social Studies**

100% of the students wrote the test (11)  
63.6% of the students met the standard  
18.2% of the students achieved excellence

### **Grade 9 Language Arts**

100% of the students wrote the test (14)  
69.2% of the students met the standard  
7.7% of the students achieved excellence

### **Grade 9 Math**

100% of the students wrote the test (14)  
85.7% met the standard  
7.1% of the students achieved excellence

### **Grade 9 Science**

100% of the students wrote the test (14)  
69.2% of the students met the standard  
0% of the students achieved excellence

### **Grade 9 Social Studies**

100% of the students wrote the test (14)  
78.6% of the students met the standard  
14.3% of the students achieved excellence



Naturally, with the small sample of students in each of the grades, the success or failure of 1 student skews the overall sample significantly. Looking at the results by including previous years, we can safely say that the students at St. Matthew are performing well with some exceptions. For the 2007 - 2008 school year, we had 5 of the 11 students in Grade 6 on IPP's and in the majority of cases did not meet the provincial standards. This was predictable as these students have struggled at grade level work over the years. At the Grade 9 level, 5 of the 14 students writing the exams have a history of apathy and incomplete work. Future goals certainly include the maintenance of the positive achievements of the past and to seek ways of improving upon the performance of students that are struggling. While most students are performing at grade level the objective is to encourage students to work at potential.

In addition to the Alberta Achievement Tests, St. Matthew Lutheran School also uses the Canadian Tests of Basic Skills. The purpose of CTBS is to assist the staff in determining strengths, weaknesses and the amount of growth demonstrated over the past year. As we retain the majority of our students from year to year we are able to make comparisons from previous years. Our students have demonstrated an average of 1.21 years of growth in Language Arts, 1.53 years of growth in Math and 1.38 yrs. growth overall. This again is very encouraging for us, and we do intend to continue to work hard at maintaining this growth. (Please see the attached Addendum A)

We will continue to use these test results to determine areas of focus for the upcoming school years. Math and Language Arts will continue to be main areas of focus.

Based on the survey conducted, 92% of the families that responded to the survey were satisfied with St. Matthew Lutheran School. 92% of the families expressed complete satisfaction with the quality of education, instructional content, instructional methods, staff and the physical environment.

**Goal 2 - Education at St. Matthew Lutheran School is responsive to students, parents and the communities.**

St. Matthew Lutheran School is open to all parents who express a desire for their children to be educated in a Christ centred environment working together with the staff in all aspects of the educational process.

A parent survey was conducted in May of 2008. The focus of this survey was to determine overall satisfaction as to the quality of education received. The parents were also asked to respond with concerns they might have. Of the 78 families, 21 responded to the survey. 92% of the parents indicated satisfaction as to the quality of education for their children.

The staff for the 2007-2008 school year were dedicated to maintaining the positive aspects of the education provided and were willing to provide growth in the areas of concern. Items of some concern as expressed by parents from the 2007/2008 school year were as follows:

1. Provide for additional Library Resources
2. Offer Language options.
3. Offer more in the way of Technology / Hardware
- d. To offer Music as a Junior High Complimentary Course.

New volumes of books continue to be purchased for the Library - as well, the Library is in the process of being automated.

Language options are currently not available at St. Matthew. We have offered a Spanish Language class to students and families over a 10 week period.

These areas of concern were all addressed for the 2008-2009 school year. The Internet has been run into each classroom. 26 upgraded computers have been placed into the classrooms. Additional software has been purchased to offer more technological opportunities.

Due to the small Jr. High class size (36), and due to a lack of student interest, we will not be offering Band as a complimentary course.

Our school families, as well as many members of our church congregation, are very involved in our school as partners and are an integral part of our school as primary stakeholders. Because we as teachers see ourselves as

extensions of the home, we find that our parents are truly committed to properly raising, nurturing, disciplining and educating their children.

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is a very valuable asset to the school in their commitment and dedication, as can be witnessed at their meetings and through the various fund-raising activities and enjoyable events; including the Hot Lunch Program, Hot Dog Days, Pizza Parties, Craft night, the Annual Silent Auction, Staff Appreciation Luncheons and Christmas Turkey Dinners.

The parents volunteer for many activities including the PAC events, field trips, swimming lessons and classroom activities. They support the delivery of education to their children not only with a financial sacrifice, but also with their enthusiastic involvement and encouragement of teachers and principal. All of our parents are involved in our school in some manner.

The PAC has purchased and placed numerous items into the school programs - from computer programs to Physical Education equipment to Library books. All this will enhance the quality of the educational process at the school.

### **Goal 3 - Teaching in St. Matthew Lutheran School Consistently is of High Quality and Provides for Excellence in Learner Outcomes.**

It is the desire of St. Matthew Lutheran School that each member of the educational team be equipped to perform the duties for which they were hired.

All teachers are evaluated annually with a minimum of two formal evaluation visits. Post evaluation conferences take place to discuss strengths and weaknesses. With the implementation of the Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Policy, teachers do provide a great deal of input into their personal developmental needs. The school tries to accommodate their needs by providing the professional growth opportunities that are required. The Principal was 100% satisfied with the teaching proficiency and competency of teaching in the classroom. All teachers are involved in a number of

Professional Development opportunities. Five professional development days were scheduled for all staff. As well, all teachers attended the week long Lutherans Teachers Association Conference where a number of special interest workshops and presentations were provided to enhance the teaching and learning process.

The teaching staff at St. Matthew Lutheran School is of high quality with many areas of expertise. Many teachers have multi-degrees with specialities in Physical Education, Music, Languages, Computer Technology, and Early Childhood Education. Parents indicate 95% satisfaction with the teaching staff. We do have a teaching assistant in the ECS program.

#### **Goal 4 - Students have access to the support services they require.**

St. Matthew Lutheran School did not have any students specifically identified as special needs students. Hearing and speech services are available through Capital Health. We were delighted in that all students requiring speech services received the required help. All parents whose children received speech therapy, were satisfied with the services provided. Assessments for children with learning disabilities are accommodated by the U of A, Glenrose or through private Psychologists.

When the number of students with mild and moderate learning disabilities warrant the hiring of a teaching assistant, this position will be made available. Currently we manage adequately in this area with the parent volunteer program and the small class sizes.

#### **Goal 5 - Information technology is integrated into education to enhance student learning, and efficiency and flexibility of delivery.**

The computer lab again received an upgrade through the "Computers for Schools" Program. 25 computing stations are available for students from Kindergarten through Grade 9. Additional Software such as Photo Lab and Photo Shop, Kidspiration, Microsoft XP, Math programs and Language Arts programs have been purchased through grants from our Parent Advisory

Committee and through a donation from the Stony Plain Lions Club. The Lab is used on a regular basis for research and projects by all classes.

Also, the internet has now been made available in all classrooms. 26 new computers have been placed into the classroom to conduct research and complete tasks. 94% of our students were satisfied with the quality of and opportunities offered in Computer Technology.

### **Goal 7 - Ensure that the education system is open and accountable for the achievement of results and use of resources.**

Parents are kept informed as to student progress and of the activities going on at the school. Copies of the Results Document as well as the Three Year Education Plan are available to all interested parties upon request. It is the intention of St. Matthew Lutheran School to have open communication with all parents. We provide 5 reporting sessions to parents during the school year to keep them informed as to student progress and concerns. Three of these reports are written and two of the reports are by way of conferences. When concerns arise, parents are immediately informed. 91% of the parents indicated satisfaction as to the quality of student reporting.

The school is officially audited each year and this audit is presented to the Board of Education and others and is available at our school to all parents and church membership. Budget presentations occur in the spring and are officially approved by the Board of Education and the congregation annually.

Parents are informed as to the percentage of spending on instruction and per student spending. While this measure does not appear on the survey, we have not heard of any complaints to date.

St. Matthew Lutheran School is committed to maintain an efficient school system by upholding its mandate to provide a sound Christ centered Education with the gifts provided by God. We are very conscience of trying to provide a solid education with affordable tuition rates. St. Matthew

Lutheran School has truly been blessed with the many contributions made by families and friends, both financial and through gifts in kind.

The financial summary will detail the spending on instruction, administration and cost per student.

#### **D. RESULTS ACHIEVED FROM ALL PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**

As St. Matthew Lutheran School is very small, it is very difficult to compare school results to provincial averages. Really, to make a fair comparative analysis, one should have a minimum sample of 12. As can be seen from the specific percentages as outlined below, we are very satisfied with student performance, in most subject areas at all Grade levels.

##### **Grade 3 Language Arts**

100% of the students wrote the test (15 of the 15)  
100% of the students met the standard  
26.7% of the students achieved excellence

##### **Grade 3 Math**

100% of the students wrote the test (15 of the 15)  
100% of the students met the standard  
32.5% of the students achieved excellence

##### **Grade 6 Language Arts**

100% of the students wrote the test (14)  
63.6% of the students met the standard  
0% of the students achieved excellence

##### **Grade 6 Math**

100% of the students wrote the test (14)  
54.5% of the students met the standard  
0% of the students achieved excellence

##### **Grade 6 Science**

100% of the students wrote the test (14)

72.7% of the students met the standard  
18.2% of the students achieved excellence

#### **Grade 6 Social Studies**

100% of the students wrote the test (11)  
63.6% of the students met the standard  
18.2% of the students achieved excellence

#### **Grade 9 Language Arts**

100% of the students wrote the test (5)  
69.2% of the students met the standard  
7.7% of the students achieved excellence

#### **Grade 9 Math**

100% of the students wrote the test (5)  
85.7% met the standard  
7.1% of the students achieved excellence

#### **Grade 9 Science**

100% of the students wrote the test (5)  
69.2% of the students met the standard  
20% of the students achieved excellence

#### **Grade 9 Social Studies**

100% of the students wrote the test (5)  
78.6% of the students met the standard  
14.3% of the students achieved excellence

## **E. FINANCIAL REPORT NOTIFICATION**

A detailed budget and expenditure report is being prepared and verified by Auditors. Copies of these same reports are available for viewing at the St. Matthew Lutheran School Office.

## **F. FUTURE CHALLENGES**

Future challenges for St. Matthew Lutheran School include the following:

- 1) On the immediate side, we are examining the low achievement rates at both the *Grade 6* and *Grade 9* level. Is the reason knowledge based or is it skill based or perhaps both. We know that at the *Grade 6* level, 5 of the 11 students were on an IPP and have a history of learning difficulties. At the *Grade 9* level we do recognize that 4 of the 14 students had the ability, however choose not to demonstrate this ability. We are examining instructional methods that may grab the students in a more positive sense.
- 2) To offer a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language. The Board of Education will implement a 2<sup>nd</sup> language upon an Alberta Learning mandate to do so. Maintaining our daily *Christian Studies Program* and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language will become a time tabling challenge in order to provide the required minutes in each subject area.
- 3) Replacing the current building. Our current building is old and requires a major renovation to accommodate the student population. Our school jurisdiction is addressing this situation by doing a feasibility study of constructing a new school. Land is in the process of being acquired.

## **CTBS - Canadian Test of Basic Skill (2007 - 2008) - Addendum A**

The CTBS scores again show favorable results for grades two through eight for the 2006 - 2007 school year. Progress between grades is monitored for Math and the *Composite Grade Score*. Averages are taken for each class and the school simply for general comparison.

The average composite scores and average math scores for 2006-2007 are slightly below the goal of 80% for all students. We recognize that this 80% level is relatively stringent, however, we feel it necessary to dangle a carrot in front of both students and staff. Over the past year 65% of the students showed gains of 1 year 1 month in Math and 76% of the students showed gains of 1 year 2 months over the course of the year. The following chart will show the average gains by class in both Math and *Composite Score*.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Composite Score</b>
Grade 2	1.83 yrs	1.41 yrs
Grade 3	1.34 yrs	1.31yrs
Grade 4	1.26 yrs	1.28 yrs
Grade 5	1.51 yrs	1.56 yrs
Grade 6	0.79 yrs	0.84 yrs
Grade 7	2.69 yrs	1.8 yrs
Grade 8	1.33 yrs	1.43yrs

The following results are based on percentages of the number of students attaining at least one years growth.

- Grade 2 - Math - 91% Composite 90%
- Grade 3 - Math - 94% Composite 93%
- Grade 4 - Math - 97% Composite 88%
- Grade 5 - Math - 92% Composite 91%
- Grade 6 - Math - 88% Composite 86%
- Grade 7 - Math - 96% Composite 94%
- Grade 8 - Math - 87% Composite 86%

Overall, 92% (77 of 84 students) of the students attained at least one year's growth in the CTBS testing. While this is excellent performance, we will continue to use 80% as our target and continue to strive for excellence.

On the average, our students demonstrated 1.21 years of growth in Language Arts, 1.53 years of growth in Math and 1.38 yrs. growth overall.