

Standardized Tests

Dr. Maria Montessori did not believe in academic testing for children. However, she believed that children should learn to be a part of their national and local culture. Standardized testing is now a central component of our national educational culture, and therefore Tempe Montessori School incorporates standardized testing within the educational experience of the elementary children. There are benefits to this experience, which are:

1. Children learn how to take tests and feel comfortable with this process.
2. Parents can be reassured that their children are learning what is expected of them as compared with their peers.
3. Teachers can assess where students are performing, excelling, and where students need additional exposure to learning experiences.

The basic score is the National Percentile Rank (NPR), and sometimes the Grade Equivalent (GE) is also given.

A National Percentile Rank (NPR) indicates the relative standing of a student in comparison with other students in the same grade nationally who took the test at a comparable time of the school year. Percentile ranks range from a low of 1 to a high of 99, with 50 denoting average performance for the grade. The percentile rank indicates the percentage of students in the same grade in the norm group obtaining scores equal to or less than that score. For example, a student earning a percentile rank of 62 achieved a score that was equal to or better than the scores earned by 62% of the national school population for that grade.

A GE is a score that represents the typical performance of students tested in a given month of the school year for a particular grade. The numeral to the left of the decimal point refers to the grade for which the performance is typical, and the numeral to the right of the decimal point represents one-tenth of the school year, or one school month. If a fourth-grade student obtains a GE of 5.9, it does not mean that the student has mastered the academic content of the fifth grade. Rather, the grade equivalent of 5.9 means that the student's score is about the same as what the typical (average) score of fifth graders would have been had they taken the same fourth-grade test in the same month of the school year.

Summary

Students at **Tempe Montessori School** have consistently scored at or above the National Norms in the National Percentile rank and grade equivalents, thus demonstrating the exceptional success of the Montessori Method of Education. A few exceptions have been due to the small number of students tested in a grade group.

Historical Scores for Tempe Montessori School

Between the years 1987-1996, the Standardized Test used was the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The Median scores for each grade are:

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Reading</u> | <u>Language</u> | <u>Work-Study Skills</u> | <u>Math</u> | <u>Social Studies</u> | <u>Composite Score</u> |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| K | 99 | 90 | 99 | 98 | | 99 |
| 1 | 98 | 88 | 96 | 95 | 97 | 90 |
| 2 | 85 | 74 | 75 | 82 | 92 | 88 |
| 3 | 78 | 76 | 84 | 71 | 95 | 83 |
| 4 | 85 | 75 | 77 | 95 | 88 | 84 |
| 5 | 95 | 96 | 90 | 85 | 98 | 96 |
| 6 | 95 | 98 | 82 | 94 | 97 | 99 |

From the years 1997 to the present, The Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition, has been used.

*PHS = Post High School. The Median scores for each grade and corresponding grade equivalents (GE) are:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Reading</u> | | <u>Math</u> | | <u>Language</u> | | <u>Science</u> | | <u>Complete Battery</u> | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | | <u>NPR</u> | <u>GE</u> | <u>NPR</u> | <u>GE</u> | <u>NPR</u> | <u>GE</u> | <u>NPR</u> | <u>GE</u> | <u>NPR</u> | <u>GE</u> |
| 2001 | 1 | 89 | 2.8 | 79 | 2.4 | 62 | 2.0 | 60 | 1.9 | 80 | 2.6 |
| | 2 | 84 | 4.1 | 89 | 4.6 | 74 | 4.2 | 86 | 4.4 | 82 | 4.4 |
| | 3 | 78 | 5.8 | 92 | 7.3 | 88 | 8.1 | 94 | 10.1 | 89 | 7.3 |
| | 4 | 92 | 6.9 | 93 | 7.8 | 79 | 6.1 | 99 | PHS* | 91 | 9.0 |
| | 5 | 84 | 8.1 | 89 | 8.2 | 83 | 8.5 | 67 | 5.8 | 83 | 8.1 |
| 2002 | 1 | 93 | 3.0 | 95 | 3.8 | 93 | 5.0 | 97 | 5.5 | 93 | 3.7 |
| | 2 | 91 | 4.9 | 83 | 4.0 | 73 | 3.7 | 81 | 4.1 | 89 | 4.5 |
| | 3 | 89 | 7.4 | 91 | 5.8 | 70 | 4.6 | 91 | 8.9 | 86 | 7.0 |
| | 4 | 95 | 9.5 | 98 | 10.8 | 86 | 9.0 | 99 | PHS | 97 | PHS |
| | 5 | 97 | 10.4 | 99 | PHS | 88 | 8.7 | 98 | PHS | 96 | 12.0 |
| | 6 | 63 | 7.5 | 86 | PHS | 63 | 8.3 | 55 | 7.1 | 74 | 10.3 |

| Year | Grade | Reading | | Math | | Language | | Science | | Complete Battery | | |
|------|-------|---------|------|------|------|----------|------|---------|------|------------------|------|--|
| | | NPR | GE | NPR | GE | NPR | GE | NPR | GE | NPR | GE | |
| 2003 | 1 | 94 | 3.6 | 93 | 3.3 | 84 | 2.8 | 82 | 3.8 | 88 | 3.3 | |
| | 2 | 91 | 4.7 | 96 | 5.2 | 90 | 5.1 | 98 | 8.4 | 93 | 5.6 | |
| | 3 | 95 | 8.2 | 97 | 9.4 | 95 | 8.7 | 92 | 7.7 | 94 | 8.5 | |
| | 4 | 77 | 9.0 | 90 | 10.8 | 82 | 9.7 | 90 | 10.2 | 85 | PHS | |
| | 5 | 94 | 10.4 | 96 | PHS | 69 | 7.5 | 73 | 7.1 | 89 | 9.2 | |
| | 6 | 95 | 10.6 | 97 | PHS | 90 | 10.1 | 97 | PHS | 93 | 11.9 | |
| 2004 | 1 | 93 | 3.5 | 97 | 4.4 | 91 | 4.0 | 88 | 4.0 | 92 | 4.5 | |
| | 2 | 89 | 4.7 | 95 | 4.8 | 70 | 3.1 | 82 | 8.4 | 86 | 4.2 | |
| | 3 | 85 | 7.0 | 95 | 5.6 | 92 | 6.7 | 94 | 8.0 | 92 | 7.4 | |
| | 4 | 93 | 9.0 | 97 | 10.8 | 91 | 9.7 | 97 | 10.2 | 94 | PHS | |
| | 5 | 92 | 8.3 | 95 | 12.4 | 91 | 10.6 | 70 | 7.1 | 85 | 8.8 | |
| | 6 | 96 | PHS | 92 | PHS | 82 | 11.4 | 92 | 11.2 | 93 | 11.9 | |
| 2005 | 1 | 77 | 2.4 | 91 | 3.1 | 71 | 2.5 | 74 | 2.6 | 79 | 2.7 | |
| | 2 | 63 | 3.0 | 74 | 3.6 | 39 | 2.5 | 62 | 3.0 | 64 | 3.2 | |
| | 3 | 70 | 4.9 | 83 | 5.5 | 91 | 8.1 | 97 | 11.6 | 81 | 5.4 | |
| | 4 | 80 | 4.5 | 90 | 5.3 | 70 | 4.4 | 86 | 5.9 | 83 | 5.1 | |
| | 5 | 86 | 8.7 | 85 | 9.8 | 77 | 10.3 | 89 | 12.5 | 84 | 11.0 | |
| | 6 | N/A | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2006 | 1 | 94 | 3.4 | 80 | 2.4 | 78 | 2.9 | 90 | 3.3 | 89 | 3.1 | |
| | 2 | 78 | 4.0 | 57 | 2.7 | 53 | 2.9 | 86 | 4.7 | 70 | 3.6 | |
| | 3 | 63 | 3.9 | 80 | 5.0 | 55 | 2.9 | 89 | 7.2 | 76 | 5.3 | |
| | 4 | N/A | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | 82 | 8.6 | 85 | 8.5 | 85 | 8.5 | 76 | 8.0 | 86 | 8.5 | |
| | 6 | 91 | 10.0 | 93 | PHS | 91 | 8.1 | 90 | 9.6 | 89 | 10.0 | |

| Year | Grade | Reading | | Math | | Language | | Science | | Complete Battery | |
|------|-------|---------|-----|------|-----|----------|-----|---------|-----|------------------|-----|
| | | NPR | GE | NPR | GE | NPR | GE | NPR | GE | NPR | GE |
| 2007 | 1 | 85 | 2.6 | 85 | 2.9 | 59 | 1.9 | 89 | 3.9 | 81 | 2.8 |
| | 2 | 87 | 4.0 | 71 | 3.2 | 83 | 3.4 | 93 | 5.7 | 86 | 3.8 |
| | 3 | 59 | 3.6 | 59 | 3.7 | 47 | 2.4 | 69 | 3.4 | 57 | 3.4 |
| | 4 | 47 | 3.3 | 58 | 3.7 | 61 | 4.4 | 64 | 4.1 | 62 | 4.1 |
| | 5 | N/A | | | | | | | | | |
| | 6 | 99 | PHS | 97 | PHS | 99 | PHS | 99 | PHS | 99 | PHS |

*PHS = Post High School