

## **Interpretation of Test Scores for the Highly Capable Program**

### ITBS – Iowa Test of Basic Skills

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills is a norm-referenced, multiple choice assessment that measures general achievement in reading and mathematics. This assessment is given to all 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in Peninsula School District. The ITBS is also given to new third graders who would like to participate in the highly capable testing.

Scores are reported in National Percentile Rankings. A student who scores in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile in both reading and math might be a candidate for further testing in the highly capable program. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile indicates that the student performed better than 90 percent of their peers on that section of the test.

### WASL – Washington Assessment of Student Learning

This test is part of our state's accountability system for grades 3 through high school. The WASL is a criterion-referenced test that measures how students perform against their grade level standards. A score of 400 indicates that the student met standard. Students are reported as being at one of four levels. Level 1 is well below standard, Level 2 is below standard, Level 3 is meeting standard, and Level 4 is exceeding standard. The highest score ranges from 475 to 575 depending on the grade level and subject area.

### CogAT – Cognitive Abilities Test

This multiple choice, norm-referenced cognitive abilities test yields separate scores for three reasoning abilities – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. The Verbal battery of the test assesses vocabulary and verbal reasoning. The Quantitative battery addresses number relationships and equations. The Nonverbal battery measures the manipulation and classification of figures.

A student's score is based on the norms for students of the same age that took the test in a national sample. The highest score a student could earn on the CogAT is a 150. A composite score of 128 – 150 would put the student at the 96<sup>th</sup> to 99<sup>th</sup> percentile rank. A composite score of 120 – 127 would place the student at the 89<sup>th</sup> to 95<sup>th</sup> percentile rank. A percentile rank compares the student's scores to others who took the test. If a student was at the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile rank, it would mean that the student performed better on this assessment than 96 percent of his/her peers.