
New Portal Notice - Academic and Well-being Statistics of IMS Elementary Students

1 message

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Wed, Mar 2, 2022 at 5:31 PM

To: comms@ims.edu.hk

Dear COMMUNICATIONS IMS

COMMUNICATIONS IMS has sent you a new Portal notice with the subject 'Academic and Well-being Statistics of IMS Elementary Students'

THE INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI SCHOOL

蒙特梭利國際學校

an IMEF School



ACADEMIC AND WELL-BEING STATISTICS OF IMS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Dear Parents,

As we prepare to enter another month of home learning, we would like to share with you some encouraging results from our Elementary Students. In periods of online learning it's important to know if children are still progressing as they should be. Thankfully this IS one area where we have good evidence to show that IMS children are demonstrating **solid academic growth**.

Of course, online learning is no substitute socially for students, so we are also comforted by the responses to our twice-weekly **Elementary Student Wellbeing** surveys. We hope you find the following information helpful and reassuring.

Academic Development:

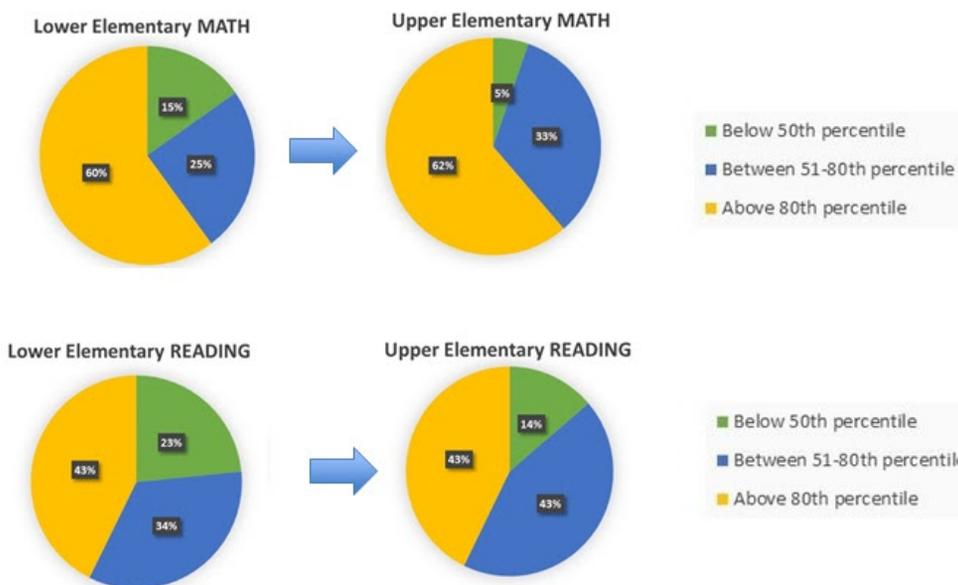
Since we started moving between face to face school and online learning two years ago, we have been closely monitoring academic data through our NWEA MAP testing (2 to 3 times per year online, for all Elementary students) and ISA test (once a year, for students in LE3 to UE3):

NWEA MAP Test Results

Our students perform consistently well in the MAP test across all subjects, with the following **impressive results from last Fall 2021**:

- Across all subjects and ages, around 85% of IMS students outperform the mean of students taking the NWEA MAP compared to (500,000 - 700,000 students in over 24,000 schools)
- 43% of students score in the top 20% in Reading
- 60% of students score in the top 20% in Mathematics
- There is consistent and clear improvement from Lower Elementary into Upper Elementary, evidencing that IMS children spend their younger years solidifying their understanding, which naturally produces strong testing results later. This is the essence of Montessori – joyful and deep learning

MAP Testing data of IMS students from Fall 2021:



ISA Test Results:

Due to online learning, our annual ISA Testing has moved from a hard copy to an online version this year, which has just been completed for Grades 3 - 6 students. Our students deserve a big pat on the back for their efforts: about 200 Elementary students completed over 1300 online reading, mathematics, and writing tests. We look forward to seeing their results around mid-April, which we would expect would show similar excellent results to the MAP tests.

We reported last year's ISA results before the summer break, and they were also very pleasing, and echoed the MAP results above. To reiterate here – IMS' mean performance for last year exceeded the All Schools' mean in every grade and every subject!

Data from the USA is showing that students have lost about six months on their academic levels from time spent online learning. In contrast, IMS' strong results in MAP and ISA are a testament to the quality of our home learning programme, and show that despite 2 years of learning affected by COVID-19, with a mixture of online and in-person curriculum delivery, our children are learning and doing well academically. Most importantly, they have been achieved without compromising our belief in what our Montessori classroom pedagogy should be.

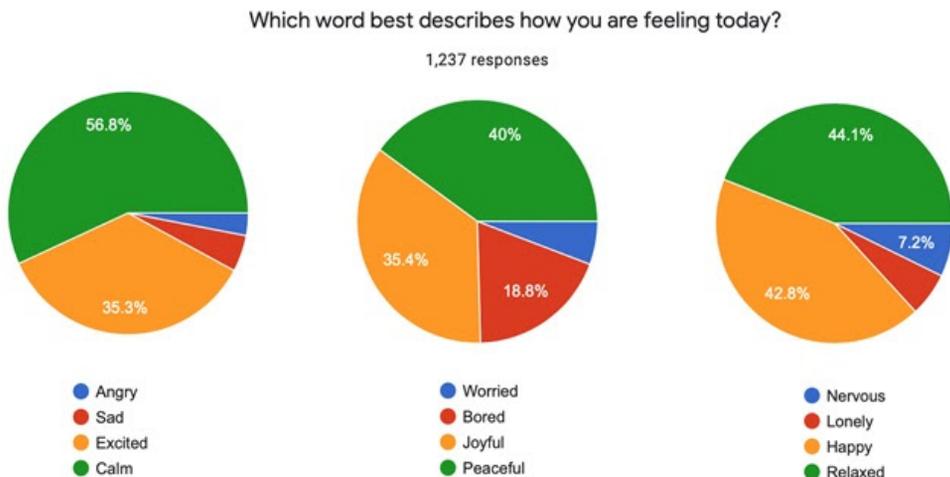
This is not to say that this period has not been difficult, and we appreciate that there are students who may be experiencing significant challenges in their home learning environment. Our teachers strive to provide the personal attention to help bridge these gaps, and together with the data that these tests provide, we can also better identify these students and support them more effectively. We are continually trying our best to improve what we are doing to best meet the needs of our students.

Student Wellbeing Surveys and Check-Ins:

Since transitioning to online learning, we have explored different ways to check in with our Elementary students to find out how they are feeling and give them opportunities to discuss these feelings with other students and teachers. We are incredibly pleased to see that our bi-weekly well-being quiz has received over 1300 responses!. It's reassuring to see that over 75% of our students regularly report that they feel positive during this online period.

Very importantly, the data has enabled us to offer support and guidance from classroom teachers and our Wellbeing Team to students to discuss these feelings further by "naming and taming" these emotions and coming up with strategies for getting themselves to a more positive frame of mind.

Our Student Council has also closely monitored this. They have begun developing a "Surviving Online Learning" website of activities, including crafts, exercise, and healthy eating, to support students' well-being and reduce some of the boredom being experienced by students.



In addition, all elementary students have the opportunity to join our Student Wellbeing team members for daily morning check-ins from 7:45-8:05am. The morning check-in brings together students from different classes to build new connections with students they may not normally interact with. These sessions' interaction opportunities have been promoted through activities such as 'show and tell', 'puzzword', 'spaceman', and word searches. Students have discussed our all-around health and well-being topics during these sessions, such as the importance of nutrition and exercise and brain breaks and sharing their thoughts and feelings around current events such as student vaccination.

Counselling Support:

Our school counsellor (Ms Bonnie Leung) is available for any parents who wish to make an appointment and talk about coping during these difficult times. Any discussions had are, of course, confidential. If you want to make an appointment, you can email Ms Bonnie Leung at bonnie.leung@ims.edu.hk.

While things are difficult right now, we can only tell ourselves things will get better. Please reach out if you are struggling and please let us know we are here to support you in any way we can.

Thank you for all your support and kind words as always.

Warm regards,

Adam Broomfield
Head of Stanley Campus

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