

May 2019

Exit Survey summary for AdvancEd School Improvement:

In closing out the 2015-2019 School Improvement process and looking toward the next five year plan, the exit survey showed an overwhelming desire (96%-strongly or somewhat agree) to implement more technology in the classroom to enhance student learning and engagement. The survey also reveals 90% (strongly or somewhat agree) of stakeholders see a need for Aquinas to offer advanced computer classes.

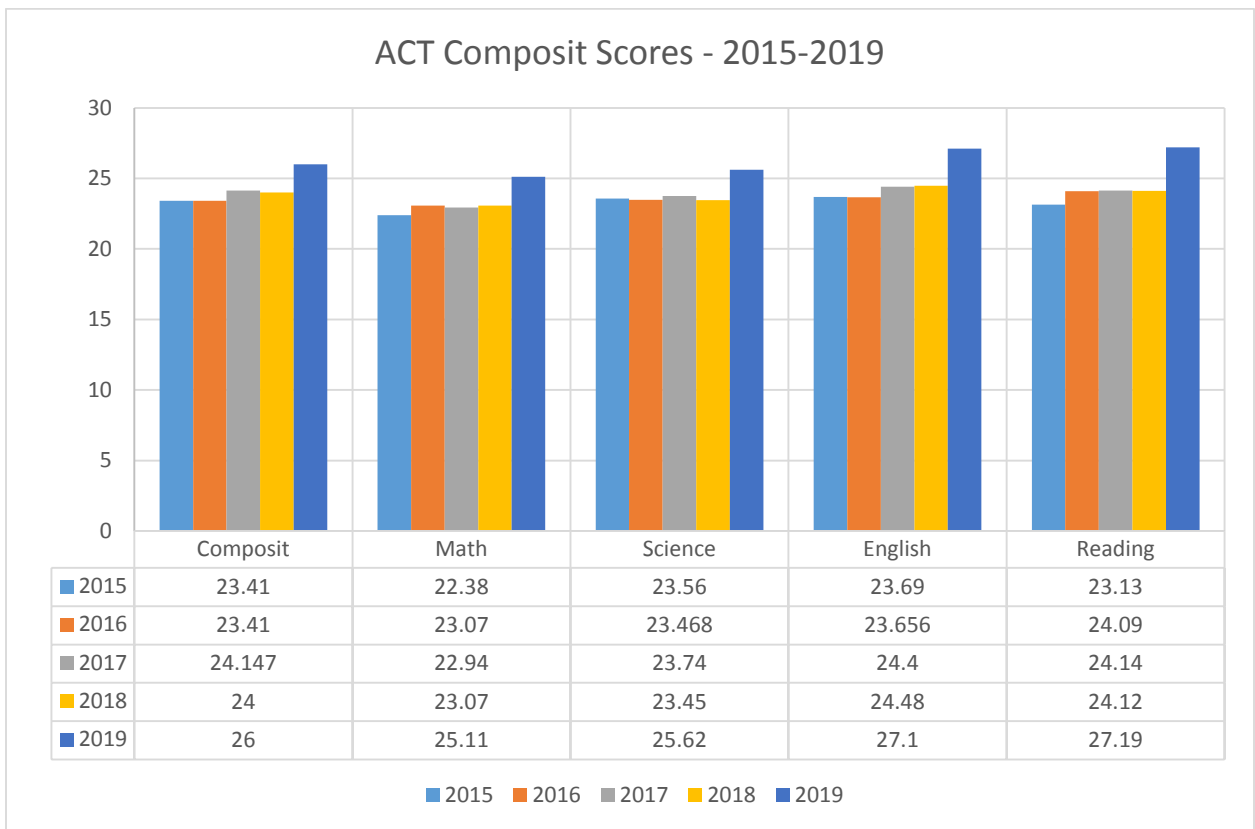
As the school enters the next five year process, administrators, teachers, and stakeholders will look at avenues we can use to find ways to implement the needs for technology. Some areas to address could be a technology and computer science teacher, more computers, increased internet speed, and such. However, each of these areas will also require additional funding.

Many suggestions were offered on the survey as well and we value your input. While we strive to provide an exceptional Catholic education to all students, limited space, teachers and budgets unfortunately does not enable us to be everything for everyone. Some suggestions provided in the survey include:

1. We are fortunate David City Public allows our students to participate in their FFA program and agriculture classes. We can review the classes and look at areas to enhance hands on classes at Aquinas as well.
2. Life skills are on-going, and because we can only fit so much into the curriculum, we rely on parents/family to work with their children in regards to sewing on buttons, sorting laundry, cooking, etc. One option we can look at is offering a day or two of high school "mini-courses" addressing life skills as well as career options. Our Aquinas community has always been willing to help teach skills like sewing, cooking, basic auto skills, first aid as well as share career options.
3. Along the line of life skills, our P.E. classes could ask community members to come in to teach CPR, self-defense, first aid, etc. Again, our Aquinas family has been very generous with providing assistance.
4. As part of our School Improvement process, Aquinas and St. Mary's teachers have and will meet over the summer to review the K-12 curriculum in required subject areas. Science curriculum alignment was reviewed in the summer of 2018 and math will be reviewed during the 2019 summer. Other subjects will follow in the future.
5. Teachers and administrators will continue to look at ways to offer more classes. For instance, a broadcasting class was added this past year and over the years we've added four levels of reading courses, college math, environmental science, etc. We also provide students opportunities to take online classes that benefit them as dual credit courses. Again, we wish we could do more and will work to implement more classes, but in some cases teachers who would like to offer new classes don't have periods available to teach additional courses.
6. Every other month teachers have used the late starts on Wednesdays to learn new/additional instructional strategy tools. We will continue to offer and encourage teachers to implement new and various instructional strategies in their classrooms.
7. With the addition of a nearly full time campus minister, we are able to offer students additional tools beyond the classroom to learn about their faith. Students can take part in FIRE, meet with

a priest or qualified lay person in partners for spiritual directions, take part in praying at the abortion clinic, and many more.

8. College credit courses are offered in Sr. English, upper level math, and business. Juniors and seniors can also schedule time to take online classes during the school day. The colleges have requirements that teachers must meet in order to teach dual credit courses and not all teachers meet these.
9. STEM courses that implement more student engagement and hands on learning is another area teachers and administrators can explore so we reach different types of learners.
10. Implementing the John Baylor Program has helped to improve ACT test scores. While the students are provided direction in school, students benefit even more by using the additional study materials they have access to online. Our scores show that doing the John Baylor “homework” is imperative to earn high scores. Aquinas continues to score above the state and national average and we continue to look at ways to keep improving scores. Below we have provided a chart that shows how scores have improved since implementing the John Baylor Program.



As we move forward in this process, we encourage you to share constructive ideas that may enable Aquinas to continue to grow. Providing our students a well-rounded Catholic education is our main concern, and while we may be limited in some areas, we continue to work to enable all students to be successful. Thank you and God Bless.