

# E L E V A T E S J A

An Education Initiative

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If we were to take a poll...

as to what is the primary purpose of our school,  
what would you say?

# The Answer:

- FAITH FORMATION – for eternal life, of course!
- INTELLECTUAL FORMATION - as a school we do not overlook other important elements of formation, and this applies most especially to the formation of the intellect.
- ELEVATE SJA is an initiative designed to improve the intellectual formation of our students so that your child will continue to grow in both faith and reason.

# ELEVATE SJA

## Mission Statement:

To improve the overall student experience at SJA through teacher placement in specialized areas, student-centered growth opportunities, implementation of advisory groups in grades 4 through 8, and restructuring of learning spaces.

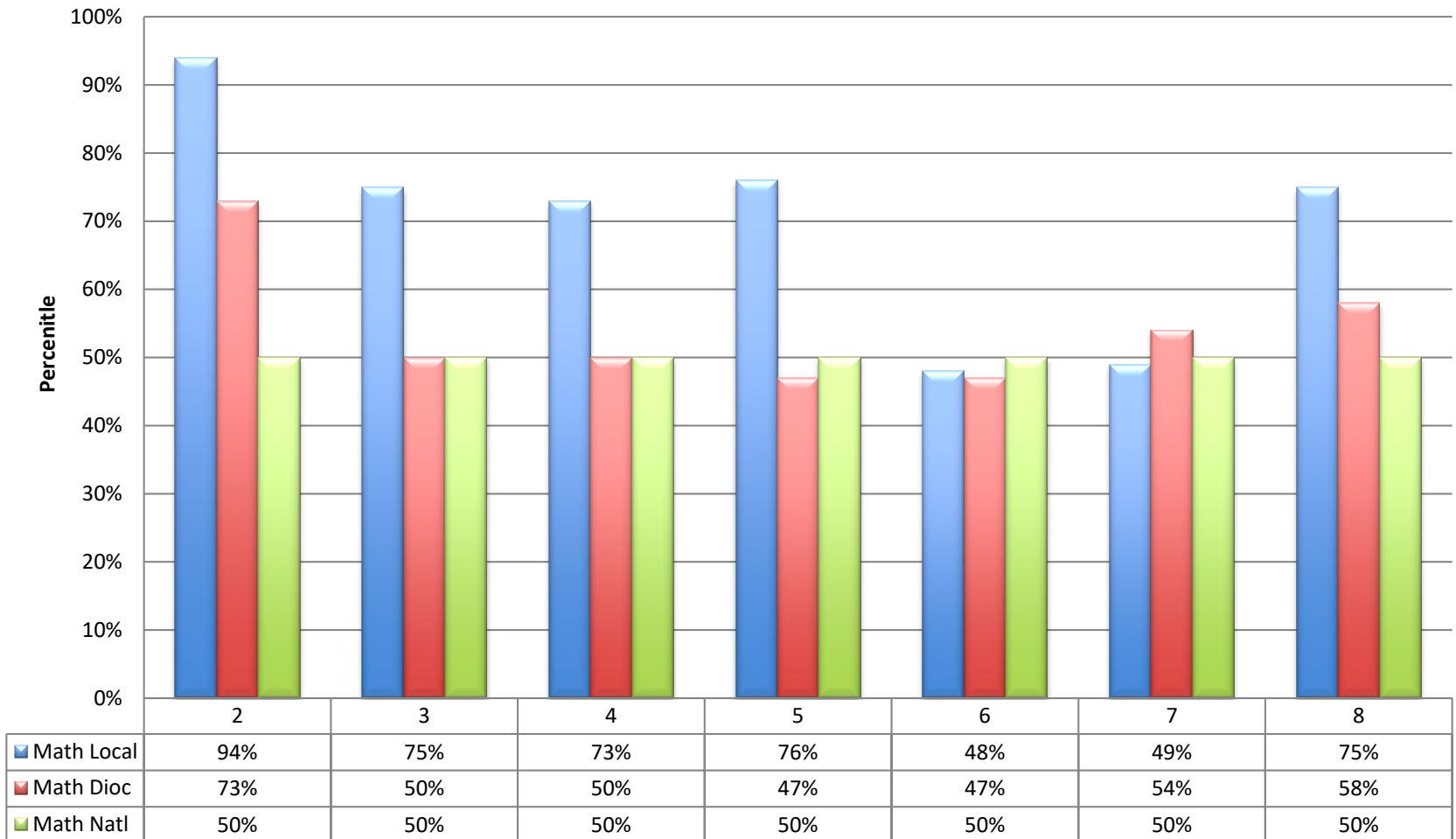
# Data and Feedback

- We are proud that our students are among the highest performing in the metro Toledo area.
- However, in studying test data and in listening to parent, student, and teacher feedback, we believe we can enhance our academic formation further, especially in the middle school/junior high grades.
- We see this as an evolution, not a revolution.
- Here is what the data shows...



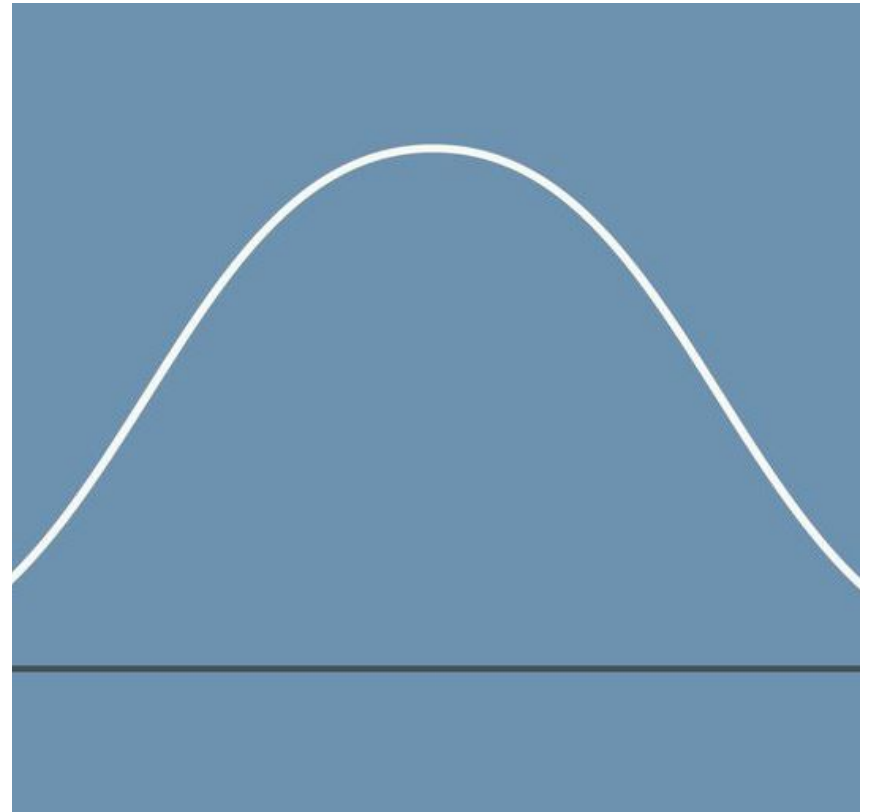
# Math Data

## Fall 2018 MAP Math Percentile Score



# Parent, student, and teacher feedback:

- For children in the middle range of intelligence, our school has lots to offer.
- For children at the lower or higher ends of the spectrum, our offerings are less robust.
- Parents whose children are advanced or are struggling may choose educational opportunities outside of SJA.

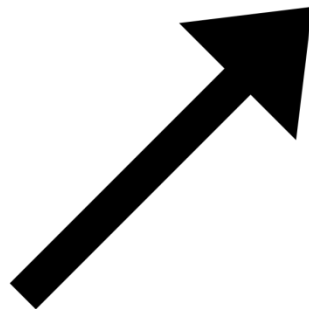




# What will ELEVATE SJA achieve?

Elevate SJA will improve our educational approach so that all students benefit, no matter where they fall on the spectrum.

- This will involve special care for those at the far ends of the spectrum.
- It will require our continued commitment to properly assess the needs of each individual student.
- SJA will now be better positioned to help each student reach their potential.



# How will ELEVATE SJA be implemented?

- 1. Differentiation**
- 2. Teach from strength**
- 3. Advisory groups**

# 1. Differentiation

- Differentiation means tailoring instruction to meet individual student needs.
- It makes use of ongoing assessment and flexible grouping to achieve improved academic performance.
- Our faculty will receive regular, targeted professional development in the area of differentiation, to provide better student-centered instruction.

## 2. Teach from strength.

- When educators teach in their area of expertise, their natural abilities and level of enthusiasm are enhanced.
- Students benefit by becoming excited and engaged with the richer, broader experience of the subject matter.
- Learning and teaching are **ELEVATED**.

# 3. Advisory Groups

- Students will be part of a smaller group improving the connectedness between faculty and students.
- Advisory groups will provide individual encouragement and opportunities for student growth academically, socially, and in both faith and virtue.

# How will ELEVATE SJA be implemented?

- ALL teachers, support staff, and aides will participate in focused, on-going professional development in the area of differentiation. This is a school-wide, Preschool-8<sup>th</sup> grade, initiative!
- SDE- Staff Development for Educators
  - ALL faculty and staff trained in differentiation
  - Focused, on-going
  - Seminar + Coaching

# Implementation continued...

- In grades 4 through 8, teachers will concentrate in their strongest subject areas: religion, math, science, social studies, or language arts.
  - In grades 4 and 5, teachers will focus on two subjects.
  - In grades 6 through 8, teachers will focus on one subject.

## Proposed outcomes of ELEVATE SJA

- Teachers will grow in knowledge of the curriculum of a specific subject for several grades
- therefore, Teachers are better equipped to individualize their instruction.
- By instructing multiple grade levels, the teachers will be following each student from one level to the next, thus allowing for further personal or group instruction.



# Questions and Answers

- We will now break into small groups, each led by an ambassador who will answer questions you may have.
- A FAQ document will be provided for you to take home; it will also be available on our website.
- Your continued feedback and questions are welcome.

*We thank you for your time today!*