

## VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLEGIANS SET THE BAR

November 13, 2009

The Oregon University System (the organization representing all Oregon public universities—the University of Oregon, Oregon St., Western Oregon, Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, Portland St., and Oregon Tech) has just released its annual report on the success of last year’s freshmen at Oregon public universities relative to their high-school success.

It lists first, for every high school in Oregon, the combined high-school GPA’s earned by its students who went on to attend Oregon public universities last year, as well as their performance on key examinations taken in high school. The individual high school’s information appears in the left column, the information for all Oregon high-school students who went on to attend Oregon public universities in the right column.

The report then lists, by high school attended, the success of each high-school’s freshmen at Oregon public universities and the success of all last year’s freshmen.

The report, then, is a good indicator of how every high school in Oregon prepares its students for university success. Because it compares high-school grades to college grades, the report indicates, also, how inflated or sound each high school’s grades are.

Ever since it was first published in 2002, this report has shown how well Valley Catholic’s students have done in their first year of college. In its first three or four years (but no longer) the report included a rank of all Oregon high schools; Valley Catholic was repeatedly ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> among all Oregon high schools, public and private. This year’s report indicates another outstanding performance by Valley’s grads.

Here is the high-school side of the report (the information is not that of all Valley’s students, just those who attended OUS universities last year as freshmen):

### HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

	<b>VC 2008-2009 OUS freshmen</b>	<b>All 2008-2009 OUS freshmen</b>
High-school GPA (22 students)	3.33	3.46
SAT Math + Critical Reading	1182	1057
SAT Critical Reading	605	524
SAT Math	577	533
SAT Writing	570	499
ACT Composite	28	22

**Evaluation** Valley Catholic’s students’ SAT scores are at least one standard deviation, if not two, above those of the general population attending a public, four-year Oregon university. This section of the report suggests, too, that it is more difficult to earn high grades at Valley Catholic than at most other high schools. The soundness of the currency of Valley Catholic’s grades will become much more apparent in the next section of the report.

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Here is the university side of the report:

### FIRST YEAR OUS PERFORMANCE

	VCS Average	Average for all OUS freshmen
Overall College GPA	3.10	2.86
First Composition Course	3.34	3.15
First Social Science Course	3.23	3.01
First math course (all levels)	3.00	2.55
First science course (all levels)	3.42	2.75
First 200-level course	3.40	2.59

**Evaluation** In each category, VCS grads have significantly higher GPA's than their classmates from all other high schools. It's worth noting, too, how much the average GPA from all high schools falls in the first year of college. Valley's GPA, however, drops by only two tenths of a point and remains above 3.0. All other students experience a .6 drop in GPA, from an A- to a C+. In high school Valley students average grades .13 lower than the state average; in college they average grades .24 higher. Students at Valley Catholic are worked and graded hard—and receive excellent preparation to succeed in college.