

Board Briefs



Board discusses results of final MEAP tests

Board members may have heard their last MEAP presentation at its April meeting but that didn't stop them from taking the results of the state mandated test given to third through ninth grade students last fall any less seriously.

Students in grades three through nine will no longer take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program, otherwise known as the MEAP. Beginning next school year, those students will now be assessed during a 12-week testing window in the spring using a computer-based assessment. While the state has not yet determined what assessment will be used, every indication points to the Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA), which is aligned with and designed to assess the Common Core State Standards approved by the state Legislature last fall. In addition, high school juniors across the state will no longer take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) in the spring but will take a "college entrance exam"—which some school officials believe will continue to be the ACT—and a "work ready test."

"The MEAP and MME do not assess the Common Core State Standards," explained **Eric Chorley**, District Assessment Coordinator.

The new assessments will be computer-based, which will be new for students.

"It will be very, very different than anything our kids have been asked to do," Chorley said. "We've seen in other states as they move to these new assessments that scores have gone down. It's hard to say if the scores are a reflection of the curriculum, the style of the assessment tool or the questions on the assessment. All we know is that there are going to be some significant challenges for our kids because it will be nothing like what they've been used

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The mission of the Davison Community Schools is to develop individuals who demonstrate skills necessary for lifelong success in a changing, global society.



Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

Board of Education members approved a resolution recognizing May 5-9, 2014, as Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week in Davison.

Board accepts donations

Thank you to the following:

- Davison resident and parent **Tim Bishop** of B-Dogs LLC donated \$100 to Gates Elementary. The donation will be applied toward the One School One Book program.
- Davison parent **Melodi Parker** donated 14 T-shirts, one for each student participant of the Hahn Intermediate Book Bowl Team.

Board approves DECA trip for internationals

Board members approved a trip request for DECA students to compete in the International Career Development Conference, May 3-7, in Atlanta, Ga. Nineteen students from the DHS chapter qualified to compete at the event.

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to doing.”

School officials, however, are looking at the new assessment, as well as a dip in some of this year’s MEAP math scores, as an opportunity to make a bigger academic impact on students. In the area of math, Davison students’ scores averaged anywhere between third and ninth in the county. While fractions of a mere percentage point separated Davison from other districts in some cases, the results clearly showed that there is work to do in the area of math.

“Obviously, this is not where we want to be with the math scores,” said Assistant Superintendent **Kevin Brown**. “We have already identified some things we think need to be addressed and are currently forming a plan.”

Brown explained that the normal protocol for years has been to study student data to determine where they might be having difficulties understanding certain topics in the curriculum.

“For years we’ve looked at the data; for example, we knew in fifth grade that students were having problems with fractions,” Brown said. “There were things here and there to work on but I think this gave us a false sense of security. I know this sounds odd, but I think we’re in a pretty good position. We are starting the process of revising our K-6 math curriculum to align with the Common Core, which gives us the opportunity to make significant changes where needed.”

Last spring the district implemented STAR Math, a computer-based universal screener and progress monitoring tool to help identify students struggling with math concepts and in need of intervention. Plans are also underway to offer a summer math boot camp for teachers.

In the area of reading, Davison students continued to score well based on this year’s MEAP results.

“The interventions and programs we’ve been doing in reading are really paying off,” Brown said. “Again, though, that’s where our focus has been.”

Even with the few dips in MEAP scores this year, school officials are mindful of the fact that students performed in the 90th percentile of the state in five of 18 assessments. Overall, Davison ranked fourth among school districts in Genesee County based on the average of all MEAP tests taken by students in grades 3-9.



Leading the Pledge

Fifth and sixth grade students selected as Hahn Heroes throughout the school year, accompanied by Teacher and Sponsor Mrs. Tara Hendrix and Principal Mrs. Holly Halabicky led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at the April 14 Board of Education meeting.

Presentations



Left: Board members recognized DTV students, Instructor/Technical Director Randy Scott, Producer/Programmer Sandy Coats and Technician Amy Parker for their achievements and award-winning student-produced television station. For the fourth time, DTV was named Station of the Year by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.



Center: the Girls' Varsity Bowling Team earned its third consecutive state championship title. The girls, along with Coach Robert Tubbs, were recognized with certificates.

Below: Davison High School wrestler Max Johnson was recognized for winning an individual state championship title this year. He is pictured with Coach Roy Hall.

Bottom left: Mr. Jim Waldron recently sold his Buick-GMC dealership and board members recognized him for his many years of support and commitment to the district.



Board approves curriculum, textbooks recommended by ACC

Board of Education members adopted curriculum and textbook proposals by the Advisory Curriculum Council for the 2014-15 school year.

Before purchasing new textbooks and materials, a three-year curriculum study must be completed and reviewed by the ACC.

Texts and curriculum materials were approved for K-12 in the areas of language arts, theatre, technology literacy, chemistry, AP statistics, robotics, foods and nutrition, world history, reading intervention and creative writing. The cost for the items is just under \$400,000.