



Board Briefs

ACT/MME: Scores continue to trend upward on state test

Whether it's a change in cut scores or questions about how students will be assessed statewide in the future, one thing has remained the same: Davison students continue to score on an upward trend when it comes to the American College Test (ACT)/Michigan Merit Exam (MME).

"I always like to look at trend data," said Assistant Superintendent Kevin Brown. "If you talk to statisticians, they tell you that you need at least three years of data to identify a trend. To me, that is important and it says we are moving in the right direction."

District Assessment Coordinator Eric Chorley shared results of the MME/ACT, taken by high school juniors in the spring, as well as information about ACT college readiness benchmarks, graduation rates and Top to Bottom Rankings during a presentation at the September 9 Board of Education meeting.

ACT/MME Results: The Board of Education's Instructional Goal is that the percentage of students achieving satisfactory performance on all subtests of the Michigan Department of Education Assessment Program will annually rank among the top 5 percent in the state of Michigan. This year, Davison High School juniors scored in the following percentiles statewide:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>MME</u>	<u>ACT</u>
Math	77th percentile	81st percentile
Reading	87th percentile	85th percentile
Science	87th percentile	85th percentile
Soc. Studies	85th percentile	NA
Writing	92nd percentile	90th percentile
English	NA	80th percentile

With all the tests combined, Davison students had a composite ACT score of 20.6, fourth among schools in Genesee County, and a composite MME score of 49.7, second in the county.

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks: The new cut scores, implemented last year, are the driving

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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.



Konkle reappointed

Skip Konkle has been reappointed to serve as the school district's representative on the Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation Advisory Board.

Donations accepted

The following contributions were accepted by board members:

- The **Knights of Columbus** donated \$1,061.16 to purchase materials and provide activities for special education cognitively impaired students.
- **St. Andrews Presbyterian Church of Davison** donated school supplies to Gates Elementary for students who might not otherwise be able to afford them.
- Davison resident **Tim Betts** donated an HP photo printer and three printer cartridges for use throughout the district.

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Board Briefs is a monthly newsletter published after Board of Education meetings. For additional information, please contact the Communications Department at 591-0852.

Welcome new teachers!

Board members had the opportunity to meet and mingle with new teachers at a brief reception held prior to the September Board of Education meeting. This year, 13 teachers have joined the Davison school family. Right, Board Secretary Karen Conover meets Stephen Culbert, who teaches second grade at Gates Elementary. Below, Thomson Elementary Principal Natalie Miller speaks with Whitney McKenna, who is teaching fourth grade at Siple, and Megan Kellie, who is now teaching kindergarten at Thomson. Last year Megan taught in the Great Start Preschool Readiness Program (GSRP).



Above, Executive Director of Student Services Donna Whitley chats with Brett Coron, Resource Room teacher at Davison High School.

Davison Middle School Principal Shelly Fenner-Krasny introduces new DMS teachers James Bronson and Rhonda Speaker to Board Treasurer Kim Lindsey and Director of Business Operations Leslie Young. James is teaching instrumental music and Rhonda teaches art. Below, Davison Alternative Education Dean of Students Dave Beamer hangs out with Kim LaFave-Hale, teacher at Hahn and Andrew Wieczorek, English/social studies teacher at DAE.



Presentations

Davison teachers design, teach online courses

Students now have an online option when it comes to choosing classes at Davison High School.

Beginning this school year, four online classes are now available to students in biology, English 9, geometry and U.S. history. All were developed by Davison teachers using district curriculum.

"There's been a lot of emphasis on online learning and most of these are offered by for-profit companies that are basically 'sit and get,' read this and test on that," said Superintendent Kevin Brown.

Late last school year, Brown met with high school teacher Joe Novak, who essentially shared the vision of developing the district's own online courses.

"We thought using Davison teachers and Davison curriculum would be a lot better than what currently exists for online learning," Brown said. "I think they've done a tremendous job."

Novak, who developed the online geometry course, shared a brief presentation from his course with Board members.

"It's the same thing I would do in my classroom," he said. "Students can submit assignments. They take real and rich assessments ... I almost hate to say this but it's almost better than being in my class because you can't pause me and you can't go home and watch me again."

Novak said science teacher Brooke Piger's online biology course is amazing.

"It's virtually the same lab the students participate in except they can't spill the hydrochloric acid or break the beakers and they're not setting Bunsen burners on fire."

In addition to Novak's geometry and Piger's biology courses, teachers Kristen Slattery and Michael Hull are teaching English 9 and U.S. history, respectively, online.

Currently, there are about 10 students enrolled in the online courses.

"We didn't really put it out there because we wanted to start small," Novak said. "We figured if we started small and the students who are in it have positive experiences and are successful, it's going to spread. We're taking baby steps at the beginning because I think this thing could really explode."

The vision is to create about 24 online courses in order to develop a comprehensive list of classes for graduation.

"No doubt this is the future," Brown said. "It's wonderful that we are developing it here because we know our teachers are as talented as anyone around."

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- **The Davison Optimist Club** donated 60 backpacks filled with an assortment of school supplies for students needing assistance.
- **Chartwells Food Service** donated \$500 to help cover the costs of food served to guests at this year's Back to School Blast.
- Hill Elementary parent **April Eckles** donated \$500 to Hill Elementary for the purchase of second grade mentor texts.
- **Richfield United Methodist Church** donated \$300 worth of backpacks and school supplies to Siple for those students needing assistance.
- The DHS Student Assistance Fund received two anonymous donations totaling \$747 to be used toward Davison High School Marching Band Camp expenses for several students who would otherwise not be able to participate.
- The **Independent Order of Odd Fellows Vernon** donated \$50 to help offset costs for the annual Back to School Blast.
- The **PKSA Karate of Davison** donated 30 backpacks filled with supplies to Siple Elementary for those students needing assistance.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Cahill** of Davison donated \$700 to the DHS Athletic Department to be used for the Girls' Golf Team.

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force behind the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. Students who meet a Benchmark on the ACT have approximately a 50 percent chance of earning a B or better and approximately a 75 percent chance of earning a C or better in a related college course.

These benchmark scores are:

English: 18

Math: 22

Reading: 21

Science: 24

For example, a student who earns a 22 in math has a 50 percent chance of earning a B or a 75 percent chance of earning a C in a first year college math course.

These benchmarks are what Governor Rick Snyder is referring to when he states that only 17 percent of Michigan students are college ready. But what people don't realize is that the governor is combining all four subjects. In other words, a student has to meet the benchmarks in all four subjects—English, math, reading and science—in order to be deemed “college ready.” Or as Chorley says, students have to be “both poets and engineers; great at everything” in order to achieve success in all four subjects.

“Unfortunately, that 17 percent number gets pushed around a lot and it's just not true,” Chorley said.

The real story is that of the 76 percent of Davison High School graduates who enroll in a post secondary program, 83 percent go on to enroll in their second year of a post secondary program.

“I don't think taking a test over the course of three days, when a kid is 16 years old, determines whether or not a student is college ready,” said Superintendent Eric Lieske. “I don't think it's a fair assessment.”

“I guess the real test is what are our kids doing when they leave school?” asked Trustee Doug Theodoroff. “Not every child that goes through our buildings is going to go to college. That's just not feasible. But, if we can prepare them to be the best people they can possibly be, isn't that our job?”

Interestingly enough, 21 percent of Davison students met the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in all four areas. Here are the percentages for the individual subjects:

English	68%
Math	38%
Reading	52%
Science	27%

Top to Bottom Ranking: The Top-to-Bottom list is part of Michigan's school accountability system, which ranks schools on their student performance in mathematics, reading, writing, science and social studies and graduation rate data (for high schools). School performance components include student achievement, improvement and achievement gaps between the highest and lowest scoring 30 percent of students in each school.

Here is how Davison school buildings fared on the list:

Central	76th percentile
High School	80th percentile
Middle School	78th percentile
Gates	74th percentile
Hahn	76th percentile
Hill	77th percentile
Siple	73rd percentile



Leading the Pledge

Members of the Hill Elementary Safety Patrol, along with co-head teacher sponsors Linda Strine and Lisa DuPrey and Principal Jennifer Torok, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Safety Patrol includes 26 fourth grade students who earned all 3s or above in Cardinal Code for the entire third grade year.