



ACT/MME: Davison students tops in all tests combined

Davison students scored at the top of the county in combined test scores for the Spring 2014 American College Test (ACT) and Michigan Merit Exam (MME).

"It's right where Davison belongs," District Assessment Coordinator **Eric Chorley** told Board of Education members at their meeting September 8.

Chorley shared results of the MME/ACT as well as information about ACT college readiness benchmarks, graduation rates and Top to Bottom Rankings.

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	80th percentile	87th percentile
Reading	91st percentile	88th percentile
Science	91st percentile	92nd percentile
Soc. Studies	92nd percentile	NA
Writing	83rd percentile	93rd percentile
English	NA	80th percentile

With all the tests combined, Davison students had a composite ACT score of 21.0, first among schools in Genesee County, and a composite MME score of 52.5, also first in the county.

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks: The cut scores, implemented in 2013, are the driving 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.

The benchmark scores are:

English: 18

Math: 22

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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.*



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Konkle reappointed

Skip Konkle was 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 \$1,336.25 to purchase materials and provide activities for special education cognitively impaired students.
- **Davison Optimist Club** donated 60 backpacks filled with school supplies for students needing assistance.
- **Hank Graff Chevrolet** donated 200 bags filled with school supplies.
- **Applebees of Davison** is hosting football team dinners every Wednesday before home games. Each player receives a complete dinner for \$2.

Welcome new teachers!

Board members had the opportunity to meet and mingle with new teachers at a brief reception held prior to the September 8 Board of Education meeting. This year, 14 teachers have joined the Davison school family. Right, Hahn Intermediate Principal Sue Kenkel and Assistant Principal Verle Gilbert chat with Dave Marchbanks (center) who teaches computer networking and programming classes. Dave, who has worked in the Technology Department for the past couple years, is teaching three classes and will continue to work as in Technology Support when he's not in the classroom. Below, Board Treasurer Kim Lindsay and Davison Middle School Interim Assistant Principal Josie Paquette pose for the camera.



Davison Middle School Principal Shelly Fenner-Krasny chats with new teachers, left to right, Katie Davis, Rachel Loftus and Lindsey Gokey. All three are teaching high school Spanish.



Above, Central Elementary Principal Lance Harper gives new Central fourth grade teacher Kelly Holland a high five. Right, Board Trustee Doug Theodoroff talks with new 5th grade teacher Jodee Collick and Assistant Superintendent Kevin Brown.



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 “able to shoot three pointers and dunk a basketball” in order to achieve success in all four subjects.

“It's a false number and gives a good sound bite for the media but to sound like Paul Harvey, it's not the rest of the story,” said Board Trustee Doug Theodoroff. “It makes no sense because you are making a leap when you rely solely on a test score. Not everyone does well on tests. I didn't do well on tests but that didn't mean I wasn't college ready. I went and got a degree and then I want back and got another one.”

The real story is that of the more than 70 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.

“Certainly we want kids to be college ready,” added Superintendent Eric Lieske. “But there's also a number of kids who need to be career ready and we are trying to get them all there.”

Interestingly enough, 26 percent of Davison students met the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in all four areas. Here are the percentages for the individual subjects:

English	66%
Math	40%
Reading	54%
Science	36%

Presentations

Board approves merit pay and one-time payment to employees

Michigan law requires school districts to establish a method annually of compensating administrators and teachers based on performance. Last week, the Board of Education complied with the law by voting to pay administrators receiving an effective or highly effective evaluation rating with merit pay of \$300 and teachers receiving an effective or highly effective evaluation rating with merit pay of \$200. The payments are one-time and off-scale.

In keeping with the spirit of encouraging high performance for all Davison school employees, the Board also voted to offer a one-time off-scale payment to all regular, hourly employees of \$100.

“While the legislation only requires merit pay for teachers and administrators, we wanted to recognize all of our employees while reinforcing the notion that we're all in this together by putting kids first,” said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**.

The merit pay will cost approximately \$131,000 and will be funded with the \$133,000 that was added to fund equity at the end of the 2013/14 school year as a result of intentional under spending of the district budget.



Leading the Pledge

Members of the Hill Elementary Safety Patrol, along with teacher sponsors Linda Strine and Lisa DuPrey and Principal Jennifer Torok, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.