

Board Briefs

District officials pleased with rise in M-STEP, PSAT/SAT test scores

Davison students are once again scoring at or near the tops of the charts in math and English language arts (ELA) state assessments.

One of the most impressive showings was with the 11th grade SAT Career Readiness Benchmark in math. Not only did Davison students rank among the top compared to peers across the county, but the SAT also measured more than 40 percent of students were deemed ready for the rigors of college math.

"That is pretty impressive," said District Assessment Coordinator **Eric Chorley**.

Even more Davison High School juniors—nearly 65 percent of them—are college ready in English, according to the College Board per the results of the 11th grade Evidence-Based Reading and Writing portion of the SAT test.

Other impressive scores were in fourth, fifth and sixth grade math, where Davison students ranked second in the county; sixth and seventh grade ELA (ranked first in the county); and eighth, 10th and 11th grade Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ranked third in the county).

District officials also noticed that students scored significantly higher on the PSAT, given to eighth and ninth graders, than on the M-STEP, given in previous

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Assistant Superintendent Matt Lobban and Assessment Coordinator Eric Chorley present on the spring 2019 testing results.



Davison Community Schools

Where Kids Come First and Futures Begin

Connections ♦ Curriculum ♦ Opportunities



Donations accepted

Board of Education members gratefully accepted the following contributions:

- **Wojo's Garden Splendors** donated flower planters to Thomson Elementary for beautification of the school at the start of the school year.
- **Journey Ministries** donated clothing items to Siple Elementary to be used by students when they need a change of clothes during the school day.

Varsity Dance Team to perform at Citrus Bowl

Board members approved an overnight trip request by the Davison Varsity Dance Team, which will be performing at a pregame show at the Disney World Citrus Bowl. The trip will take place December 29, 2019, through January 2, 2020. Ten to 13 students will be participating in the trip to Orlando, Fla.

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

Presentations

Math Coach Julie Crockett named “Kids First” October recipient

District K-8th grade Math Coach **Julie Crockett** is the October recipient of the “Kids First” Award.

Each month, administrators nominate a DCS employee who best exemplifies what it means to be “Kids First.” Winners receive a \$100 Visa gift card thanks to Mark Owen, owner of MEEMIC insurance agencies in Davison and Flint Township, and a certificate. The winner is chosen at random.

Crockett was nominated by Executive Director of Student Services **Holly Halabicky**, who wrote:

“As a curriculum coordinator, Julie Crockett works behind the scenes in our organization. However, her duties are no less important than those on the front lines. Over the past year Julie has been instrumental in ensuring that special education teachers have had the time and resources needed to address curriculum needs for our students with special needs. She has worked to investigate curriculum, assisted in setting up PD opportunities and been mindful of the needs of our students with different learning needs.

“On behalf of the teachers of students with special needs and, more importantly, on behalf of students, I would like to extend our gratitude for your priority on inclusive opportunities.”

Other great DCS staff members who were nominated this month include: Transportation Dispatcher/

Driver **Kim Dortman**, Cardinal Center Business Office Secretary **Shawn Hoover**, Hahn Intermediate Cook **Lisa Hughes**, Hahn Intermediate Teacher **Bob Konzman** and Siple Elementary Teacher **Christy Turner**.



Left to right, Executive Director of Student Services Holly Halabicky, K-8th Grade Math Coach Julie Crockett, Superintendent Kevin Brown and Board of Education President Kathy Sudia.



Presentations

DEF Professional Scholar presents at international ESL conference

It has been several months since Gates Elementary teacher **Bridgette Massaro** returned from her trip to Miksic, Montenegro, where she presented at an international conference, attended workshops and spent time teaching English to non-native learners, but the memories of the trip are fresh and fondly on her mind.

"By far, it was the most valuable experience I have had both professionally and personally in my life," she said.

Massaro, who is pursuing a second master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at Eastern Michigan University, presented on phonemic awareness and shared techniques she uses with her first grade students. She also attended some "amazing sessions" while meeting and communicating with people from many different countries during the conference.

The second part of her trip was to work with 5- and 6-year-old students who barely spoke English.

She said her "aha" moment came when three boys chose to stay inside during recess to play a language game they were learning in class.

"That gave me a renewed energy to come back and work with students at Davison and get them excited about learning," she said. "That's what I want - for my kids to be so excited to learn that they can't wait to get to school."



Gates Elementary Teacher Bridgette Massaro talks about her international experience. She is the 2019 Davison Educational Foundation Professional Scholar and was awarded a \$1,000 grant toward the trip.

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years.

Chorley also noted that when compared to other districts throughout the state with comparable demographics, such as ethnicity, median income, percent with college educated homes and free and reduced lunch rates, Davison students' test scores prove that the district is meeting the needs of economically disadvantaged children.

"Historically in Davison, we break the mold when it comes to assessments and (economically disadvantaged) students," Chorley said. "It's good to see we are serving that population."

Assistant Superintendent **Matt Lobban** said the district continues to work toward meeting its Board of Education Goal of performing within the top 10 percent of the state.

"We are getting closer and we are excited to see the areas where we have reached (the 90th per-

Davison Board of Education Goals

Top 10%, 90th Percentile Rank

M-STEP/SAT Statewide Percentile Rankings

	Spring 2019						
Grade: last year's	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	11 th
ELA	77th	72nd	77th	91st	91st	89th	79th
Math	78th	83rd	81st	84th	69th	63rd	81st
Social Studies			73rd			84th	84th

centile), he said.

He added that student ownership of learning will continue to help test scores rise.

"Talk to an elementary student and they will say, 'I'm a mathematician,' or 'I'm a reader' or 'I'm a scientist.' They are identifying themselves as a master of the subject and owning it."

Presentations



Student artists earn recognition

Board of Education members recognized several students whose artwork was selected for the City of Davison Ground Water Protection Calendar and T-shirt design contest. Lily Schultz, a sixth grade student at Hahn Intermediate, designed the cover of the 2019-20 calendar with her “Bee a Hero, Save Earth’s Water” design. Honorable mentions for their cover designs included: Evelyn Dixon and Carson Meinburg from Gates Elementary, Averie Newman and Shianne Saunders from Hill Elementary and Brianna Hulber and Trinity Tiggart from Central Elementary. Students whose art work was selected as a monthly cover included: Alivia Cliff, Sydney Simmonds, Miley Siple from Hahn, Calvin Ferguson from Hill Elementary, Molly Schultz, Razel Ledford from Central, Lauren Hennagir, Josie Rogers, Naomi Staudacher from Davison Middle School, Cole Aboneaaj, Elena Miller from Gates Elementary and Sophie Schwabauer from Siple Elementary. Emmerson Wernette, a freshman at Davison High School, designed the T-shirt. A special thanks to City Manager Andrea Schroeder for including our students in the calendar contest each year.



Action items

Annual Washington, DC trip approved for 8th graders

Board of Education members approved Davison Middle School Teacher **Janet Green's** request to plan the school's annual trip to Washington, D.C. The trip will take place May 22-25, 2020, for any interested eighth grade student. This is the 11th year for the trip, which takes place during Memorial Day weekend.

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. On Monday, 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 \$1,000 and teachers receiving an effective or highly effective evaluation rating with merit pay of \$600. 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 of \$400 to all regular, hourly employees working five or more hours. District level supervisors will receive an \$800 payment, Central Office staff will earn \$500 and hourly employees working less than five hours will receive \$200.



Leading the Pledge

Student Ambassadors from Gates Elementary led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at the October Board of Education meeting. These fourth grade students assist in welcoming new students to their school. They were selected based on teacher recommendation, their kind and outgoing friendly personalities, willingness to assist fellow classmates and dedication to following the Cardinal Code.

