TWO MAURY CITY STUDENTS PRODUCE PERFECT TCAP MATH SCORES



Above: Maury City Elementary School students Paisley Young (third from left) and Emma Bagwell (right of Young) were celebrated by (left to right) Jared Foust, Assistant Director of CCSD Schools; Krista Kail, their math teacher; P. A. Pratt, Director of Schools; and Christine Schwartz, MCES Principal, for their perfect scores on the TCAP 3rd Grade math test.

How's your fraction game? Can you effectively read graphs? Do you know the difference between a polygon and a rhombus? IS there even a difference between a polygon and a rhombus? Can you still look at the hands of two clocks – NOT digital! – and compute exactly how much time has passed? Can you determine the perimeter of something?

And we haven't even touched yet the inclusion of solving equations and doing problems with actual numerals, such as basic division and multiplication.

Those are the kinds of things you might face when taking a third-grade Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) mathematics test, given to all of this state's public school children to measure academic achievement and progress.

Suffice to say that if you can do all that – at eight or nine years old – without making a single mistake, and being timed while you do it... you deserve to be celebrated.

Maury City Elementary School recently received the news that two of its students posted perfect scores on last year's TCAP math exam, nailing all 40 questions correctly. Not only that, but 12 of the 26 students involved in that particular test earned Level 4 status, a designation described as "exceeded expectations and/or mastered grade-level standards." It's the highest of the levels available.

Emma Bagwell and Paisley Young were the students who perfectly aced the TCAP test.

"When I saw the final results, with so many of the students at Level 4," said MCE Principal Christine Schwartz, "I was obviously thrilled. But then I looked to see which two had the perfect scores, and honestly, I wasn't surprised at all. They both come from families that have instilled a strong work ethic, and these girls certainly have it."

While not being surprised at who excelled, once aware that perfect scores had been attained, Schwartz said she was amazed that the 40 out of 40 achievement had been managed by any student.
"A perfect TCAP score in any subject is extremely rare," she said. "It doesn't happen in some years at all, and maybe even for a few years. To have two in the same class is tremendous."

Schwartz saluted the girls' teacher – Krista Kail – and acknowledged again the outstanding fact that 46% of the students tested were at Level 4.

"It's a tribute to the effectiveness of her teaching," said Cindy Nolen, former principal at Friendship Elementary who is now Supervisor of Instruction for Grades K-5 for the Crockett County School District. "There's always a fine line in Tennessee regarding the debate about how much emphasis is put on these tests. It would be interesting to see how the legislators themselves would perform on these tests if they had to take them. But right now that's the measurement standard that we have, so it's an encouraging achievement to see the success this particular group of math students enjoyed."

"While Emma and Paisley got all 40 of 40 right, there were several others who just missed it by a point or two," Schwartz said. "It's obvious they've been taught well."

Bagwell and Young were recognized for their achievement by Director of Schools P. A. Pratt and Assistant Director Jared Foust. The girls also enjoyed a special lunch at The SPOT along with Kail, Schwartz, and Assistant Principal Kiley Doyle.

"We are so proud of these students' hard work, determination, and dedication to learning," Schwartz said. "Perfect scores deserve a perfect celebration."



Above: Math teacher Krista Kail and students Emma Bagwell and Paisley Young were given a special lunch at The SPOT by MCES Principal Christine Schwartz and Assistant Principal Kiley Doyle.



Above: Teacher Krista Kail stands with her students Paisley Young and Emma Bagwell, who both had perfect scores of 40 on the TCAP 3rd Grade math test.