

Changes in MEAP mean a more difficult test

Continued from Page 1
AS AN EXAMPLE, Rigney said that today's assembly line workers need "some basic sense of trigonometry" in view of robotics and statistical processes that are now a mainstay in manufacturing plants.

achieving the new math goals, Rigney said.
Comparing MEAP test results with those of past years would be like comparing apples and oranges.

It makes no sense, said Arthur F. Coxford Jr., U-M professor of mathematics education who served on the same committee with Payne.
"There's nothing to compare the

scores to since the test has been revamped and is measuring different things this year, Coxford said.
"The test results can, however, be used to gauge strengths and weak-

ness in mathematics instruction," Coxford said.
The new math MEAP test is "ahead of the curriculum," and measured skills and concepts test design-

ers realize are not taught in many classrooms, Coxford said. "The test is a way of moving instruction toward educational goals we want to achieve."

Reporter finds mini-MEAP challenging

Continued from Page 1
"Not bad" said Richard Strausz, curriculum coordinator for math and computers. "Give yourself an A."
Strausz developed the mini MEAP test by selecting 25 of some 80 fourth grade math test questions. "I was reading people's body language

before the test," Strausz said. "They were nervous, making jokes and squirming in their seats."
WE WERE GIVEN small, card-board rulers, marked only in centimeters.
"The world works on the metric system," Rigney said in another in-

terview.
Conceptualization, mental arithmetic, mathematics computation, application and problem solving were all on the tests given to fourth, seventh and tenth graders.
Somebody gave me a calculator use during a portion of the test. But, my hand just couldn't touch it. Old

habits die hard. Using a calculator is cheating, as far as I was concerned.
I was also baffled by some blocks which Strausz later explained was supposed to designate a hands-on, manipulative problem of addition and subtraction and place value.
Parents who took Farmington's test had basically the same reaction:

challenging but required reading at a good comprehensive level.
In the end, we all received certificates.
"You all did very well," said Carolyn Mahalak, of the district's assessment office, without looking at any of the results.
"Yeah, on the fourth grade test," said one father.

District dedicates newly renovated Gill Elementary

By Casey Hans
staff writer
After months of work and effort, the Gill Elementary community dedicated their newly renovated school Tuesday, where the school board held its regular meeting.
The project came in under budget, and construction ran smoothly.
Fifth grade student council members provided guided tours for the board and visitors, showing them a new gymnasium, a former gym which was transformed into a media center, a new hallway and classrooms for fifth graders, and special classrooms for vocal and instrumental music and gifted programs.
"We are proud of the new facility and pledge to continue our fine program here at Gill," said principal Michael Duff, who said the renovation and addition was a "cul-

mination of many months of years of hard work."
"When you walked through this building and saw eight of 10 contractors working together," said building and student services director Don Cowan, you realize "teamwork is not dead in America today."
PARENTS FROM the Gill community thanked the school board for allocating money for renovations to the 35-year-old school where siding was coming off and students were forced to learn their music lessons and store equipment and other extras in hallways. The project was approved at a time when the district was facing cut-backs and other financial concerns.
"You've gone, frankly, from worst to first," Superintendent Michael Flanagan told parents, staff and students. "It's what we will try

to do with other buildings in the future, Nick Abid, (the former Gill principal who is now deceased) would have been just ecstatic to see this happen."
The district budgeted \$3.35 million and spent \$3.19 million on the project, which expands the student capacity at Gill to 500 students.
The school board decided to do the entire project at one time, saving \$400,000 from what it would have cost to do it in a piecemeal fashion.
The first \$2 million for the project was budgeted in the 1990-91 fiscal year, with the remainder budgeted for the current year.
The school houses students in grades kindergarten through five, and 16,100 square feet was added to the former building making it 54,880 square feet.

District lauds grid champs

Continued from Page 1
ington shared the team's motivations for the year. "We had high expectations coming back," he said. "The group dedicated themselves to winning everything."
Herrington came to Farmington as a basketball coach and got his first football coaching job from Colton, who called the coach "a multifaceted person."
The House of Representatives in

Lansing also praised the team in a Dec. 9 resolution. It said, in part: "This dominant and skillful group of young men rode the waves of victory over Cheboygan High School... We are proud to extend our heartfelt congratulations to these outstanding athletes."
"The Hawks made the game of football look easy. It was evident that each member of the team had spent many hours in concentrated

practice. Such prowess has paid off handsomely and brought honor to each player, their coach, their families and the entire community."
The Hawks carry a 49-2 record and boast three state championships during the last four years. This year, three team members serve on the all-state team and the team is ranked seventh in the nation which is "almost unheard of," Flanagan added.

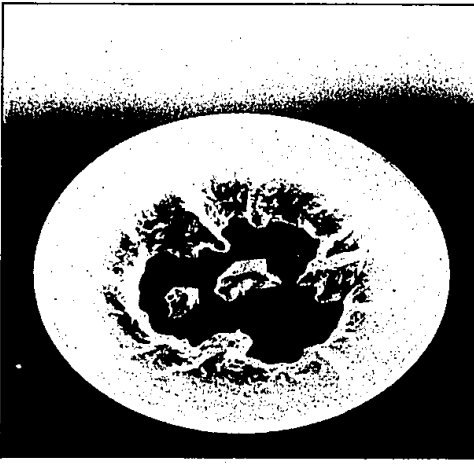
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