

Up in science, down in English

Comparison of test scores revealed

By LYNN ORR

Farmington students score better in science and math than English and social studies on college board examinations.

At least that's the results accumulated by three Farmington School District counselors who put together a comparison study of test scores for the past five years. The study reveals that the Farmington test-takers scored slightly above the average of both the state and nation with some exceptions.

Verbal and English scores, as well as most scores in the 1975-76 group, are the exceptions.

And although Farmington school board members were pleased that the students appear not to be participating in a national decline worrying many educational experts, they weren't pleased with the exceptions.

"We shouldn't be scoring below the state in anything," Trustee Richard Wallace said, referring to 1975-76 scores which were slightly below the state average in verbal scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

The 1975-76 test-takers were unique in that they showed a sharp decline in all areas of both the SAT and the American College Test (ACT).

"Otherwise, with minor exceptions, Farmington students over the past five years have had mean scores above the means of students at the state and national level," said Jim Whitledge, committee chairperson and counselor at Farmington Senior High.

THE STUDY was conducted to see how Farmington students fared in the light of considerable controversy surrounding the 10-year decline in college test scores.

"Research shows the decline to be a real one, one that affects all geographic areas as well as tests other than the ACT and SAT," Whitledge said. "The test experts seem to agree on two things. One is that no one really knows the exact causes for the decline, and secondly, they have identified some factors which must be researched more thoroughly to better understand the meaning of the decline."

The test score decline was first discovered about 2 1/2 years ago, according to Richard Ringstrom, Farmington Education Association executive director. And the studies conducted since then have failed to explain the perplexing steady decline.

"For the most part, public and private education knows no more about it now than they did then," he said. "There's no simple answers to what's taking place. School systems are geared for education, and they're really not about testing anything."

Trustee Anne Struble voiced a differing opinion.

"We're talking about teaching the test but not teaching the test," she said. "If these tests do represent significant skills that students really need, then I think we should pull out all of our literature and English programs, analyze them, and see if they are doing the job."

TRUSTEE Dr. Mervyn Ross asked if it would be possible for school board members to take the tests to get a better idea how the scores reflected knowledge.

The study, conducted by Whitledge, Harrison High counselor Jill Turley, and North Farmington High counselor Barry Musante, broke down the annual test scores by year, academic

areas, and comparisons with state and national averages.

In Michigan, ACT scores have declined over the past eight years in English, math and social studies, while natural science scores have increased over the same period, the study shows. The 1972-73 test-takers, the second year of the study, scored higher than those in other years.

The decline in SAT scores at the state and national levels was reflected by Farmington students in the verbal area.

"It appears that Farmington students who wrote the SAT verbal assessment showed a steady decline over the past five years," Whitledge says. Math scores of Farmington students appeared to be fairly stable

over the five year period, with only a very slight decline in 1974-75 and 1975-76 he added.

Farmington students showed an overall decline in SAT verbal, ACT English, social studies and composite. The test-takers showed an increase or remained stable in SAT math, ACT math, and natural science.

Farmington Calendar

DEPRESSION GLASS

Monday, Aug. 15: Depression glass exhibit on display in Farmington Hills Community Library, 32737 Twelve Mile, on loan from the Michigan Depression Glass Society, remains through Aug. 31.

ONE WOMAN SHOW

Monday, Aug. 15: One-woman show of the work of Farmington artist Alice Nichols, in Farmington Community Library on Liberty continues through Aug. 31.

ORIENTAL COOKING

Wednesday, Aug. 17: Oriental cooking demonstrations with utensils by Taylor and Ng run continuously from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Hudsons Marketplace, Twelve Oaks Mall. No charge.

CAT'S CRADLE

Thursday, Aug. 18: "Cat's Cradle," by Kurt Vonnegut, continues informal book discussions in Farmington Community Library, 23500 Liberty, at 7:30 p.m. No charge.

ACCESSORY HOW-TO

Thursday, Aug. 18: "Accessory How-To" teaches the knack of how to use fall's newest fashion accessories, in Hudsons' Accessories Area, Twelve Oaks Mall, at 1 p.m.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT SALE

Friday and Saturday, Aug. 19-20: Used sports equipment sale, sponsored by Farmington Area Recreation Commission, asks sellers to drop off any kind of sport item for consignment, in Farmington High School

caterina on Friday, between 6 and 8 p.m. Items go on sale Saturday, in the high school cafeteria, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FHS REUNION

Saturday, Aug. 20: Deadline date for reservations for reunion of all Farmington High School graduates from 1927, and before, taken by Wilfred B. Otis, 22823 Lakeway, Farmington, 48024. Dinner reunion set for Farmington's Holiday Inn on Sept. 17.

BIKE-A-THON

Saturday, Aug. 20: Bike-a-Thon '77 sponsored by Bruce Lilley, 24056 Broadview, Farmington, to benefit Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, with route marked on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College. All specifications for entrants spelled out on sponsor sheets now available at McDonald's on Orchard Lake near Ten Mile. Lilley will take inquiries at 474-5472.

MADemoisELLE ON LOCATION

Saturday, Aug. 20: "Mademoiselle On Location" features editors of Mademoiselle Magazine, makeup artists, beauticians, bridal salon personnel and Hudson credit department representatives who invite questions from visitors from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hudsons' mall entrance, Twelve Oaks Mall. Beauty editors take over from 1 to 3 p.m. on the Grand Court performing makeover magic on volunteers, and host a fashion presentation.

NEW DIRECTIONS

Sunday, Aug. 21: "The New Direc-

tions," a singing group from North Carolina, stages "An Action Experience in Christian Love," at 7 p.m. in Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middle Belt, Livonia. No charge.

COMMISSION ON AGING

Tuesday, Aug. 23: Farmington Area Commission on Aging regular monthly meeting in Farmington City Hall, 23500 Liberty. Open to all interested persons.

NEW REFLECTIONS

Tuesday, Aug. 23: "New Reflections" sportswear (formal fashion) showing at 2 p.m. in Hudsons' Twelve Oaks Mall. New Reflections area, second level.

SYMPHONY OF LIFE

Wednesday through Friday, Aug. 21-23: Symphony of Life, seminar on Biblical principles of music, conducted by Frank Garlock, from Bob Jones University, in South Carolina, at 7 p.m. each evening in First Baptist Church of Farmington, 33400 Shawassee. Inquiries will be taken by calling the church office, 474-0350.

BREAKFAST WITH MICKEY MOUSE

Saturday, Aug. 27: Breakfast With Mickey Mouse, in the Greenery Restaurant, Hudsons, Twelve Oaks Mall. Tickets at \$2.50 each now on sale in Twelve Oaks Ticket Service. Breakfast begins at 9 a.m.

Casey joins PR society

John P. (Jack) Casey, vice president, of MG and Casey, Inc., Detroit public relations firm, has become an Accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).

Casey, of Farmington Hills, has been with MG and Casey, Inc., since 1966. Before that, he was a special assistant to Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh and a staff writer for the Detroit Free Press. Since 1966, he has also been a political analyst for radio station WJRI, and since 1976 he has been WJRI's on-the-air public opinion commentator.

The PRSA is an 8,000-member professional association which advances the practice of public relations through a continuing series of educa-

tional, research and information exchange programs.

Accreditation is the highest recognition of professional competence given to PRSA members, and is designed to raise standards and improve the practice of public relations.

In earning Accreditation, Casey joins 2,771 other Accredited PRSA members, which is the largest public relations organization in the world. Casey qualified by successfully completing a written and an oral examination which tested his knowledge and competency in the practice of public relations. To be eligible, a person must have at least five years experience in public relations work.

CITY OF FARMINGTON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the 1977 Edition of the Farmington City Code has been printed and will be adopted by the Farmington City Council.

After adoption, copies will be available for inspection or sale at the Office of the City Clerk, 23600 Liberty Street, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

NEDRA VIANE  
City Clerk

Publish: August 15, 1977

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