C'ville students struggle to pass state test

y Marle Chestney taff writer

The struggle continues for the 10th raders in the Clarenceville School graders in the unit of the product of the state-mandated reading the wear. 10th graders across

test this year, 10th graders across the state were asked questions about bacterial cells and the function of

bacterial cells and the function of cytoplasm. It's the state's new way to check on how well students read technical material. And for the second year, Michigan's students are strungling to master this higher level of reading. Last year, the 10th graders in Clarenceville who took the new test for the first, time scored a dismal 25.3 percent. This year, they scored to the first time scored a dismal 25.3 percent. This year, they scored "Our teachers have been working on teaching this informational type of material and they had hoped to see some impact," said Pat Vickery, daministrative assistant for instruc-tion for Clarenceville which includes Livonis, Redford and Farmington Hjills. "But maybe it's too soon to see this impact."

ON AN average, 10th graders in

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COADDE LALE I Publicu (DSP 187-64)) Publicu (DSP 187-64)) MU (S009-0910) Papers, 805 E. Maple, Birningham, MI (S009-0910). Second-class pos-pages, 1005 E. Maple, Birningham, MI (S009-0910). Telephone S4-1100, guidenterment extended.

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New

Year

'The problem is that too many factors may influence the test. Are they turned off? Do they sit there and play tic-tactoe? Are they bored? Do they take the test seriously enough?"

O&E Monday, December 31, 1990

— Pat Vickery instruction chief

ing on "The Cell: The Basic Unit of Life." The reading includes dia-grams on nerve, animal, plant and bacterial cells. Topic questions range from cell theory to ribosomes. "The 10th graders can read," Vickery said. "The problem is that Oakland County scored 45.1 percent on the reading test, in Macomb County 38.3 percent; and in Wayne County 33.7 percent. Tenth graders in Livonia Public Schools scored 43.5 percent on the test, Redford Union 30.4, and South Pariford 35. test, itedford Union 30.4, and South Redford 35.1. In the section where students read a story and then an-swer questions, they do well. The students' stumbling block is the informational reading section, which challenges the students in a new mamer.

Vickery said. "The problem is that too many factors may influence the test. Are they torned off? Do they sit there and play lic-tac-too? Are they bored? Do they take the test serious-ly enough? "Motivation is the most important factor in reading. Our school coun-selors are coacerned about the moti-vation of our 10th graders to take this test."

will lace the same challenge on the math test students now lace on the revamped reading test. The math test also is now being changed to emphasize a higher-level of math stills. This includes inter-preting information contained on rapps and charts. "A committee is now working on how to change the math curriculum to met the demands of the new weet," Vickery said. "Next year might be a bad year for math also. We expect to see a drop. The students are used to looking for a basic answer instead of apply for a basic answer instead of apply for a basic answer instead of apply ing problem-solving skills. It's not hat they cart do it, they just ha-vert been asked to do it before." Clarencevine taking the math test jumped 17 points, from last year's cont. On last year's science test, the

cent. On last year's science test, the fifth graders scored 74.8 porcent. This year, they scored 77.7 percent. Scores dropped on the other seven tests taken. The biggest drops oc-curred on the fourth grade reading test (10 points) and the eighth grade science test (23 points).



New manner. For example, there are 34 ques-tions covering the seven-page readthis test." NEXT YEAR, students statewide Schools should track how grads do -- chief

By Casey Hans staff writer

Test results are "valuable" for measuring student performance, but cates tops aform throughout college and into edithood, said Parming-ton's top school administrator. Superintendent Michael Parming-ton's top school administrator. Superintendent Michael Priangan wants to know what happens to the 90 percent of Parmington students who are college-bound, and also the other 10 percent who either stiend a vocational school or none at all, "We forus in on the scool mears" he

"We focus in on the good news," he said. "What would be equally inter-esting to me, is what percentage of those kids graduate from college? "Frankly, we share in the respon-sibility of that. This is a complicated issue."

Finangan said he is also concerned about the percentage of students who score inadequately on skill tests given in the district which he said "is

not acceptable to any of us," Flana-gan said the Farmington school dis-trict will focus on more individual-ized learning to enhance each stu-dent's future.

Continued from Page 1

scores, a state-mandated testing pro-gram to the Farmington school board. Also discussed were results of the lowa Test of Basic Skills; district figures on collego-entrance testing were given to the school board in writing. "We're going to start to focus more on individual . . . plans in this district," he said. The school chief's comments came during a discussion of the district's skill testing program, and a presen-tation of the Michigan Education As-sessment Program, or MEAP,

THE MEAP TESTS showed slight changes from the previous year in student skills, with increases in eight test areas and decreases in four. Stu-dents in grades four, seven and 10 are given math and reading tests;

In the Iowa skill tests, student skills showed an increase over the past several years.

Beginning this year, the district will replace the Jowa test with a Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills Battery, which adds new testing areas of Word Analysis in grade three and Comprehension, Language Expression and Math Concepts and Applications

those in grades five, eight and 11 are given the science segment. In the low a skill tests, student skills showed an increase over the past several years.

The Cognitive Abilities Test will continue for grades three and five, as will the Differential Aptitude Tests for eighth graders.

Flanagan said the changes reflect the district "treating it (testing) in a much more valuable way in the fu-ture."



Aerobic-A-Thon helps handicapped boy

"Jocy had to be resuscit birth," Carla said. "I knew he distress."