Science from page A1

tion and after school was dismissed for the year so information could not be easily dispersed to elementary school families."
Jaske said she also isn't convinced about reducing science benchmarks (topics, such as photosynthesis or the universe) from \$9 to 60, to allow for more 'indepth' study. More changes also could once again impact Michigan Educational Assessment Program test scores. "Do we want to test something new once yet the service of the serv to elementary school families."
Jaske said she also isn't convinced about reducing science benchmarks (topics, such as photosynthesis or the universe) from 80 to 50, to allow for more "indepth" study. More changes also could once again impact Michigan Educational Assessment Program test scores. "Do we want to test something new once ogain on our children?"
But board President Linda Enberg said the new science curriculum would probably enhance MEAP performance, in part, because it would be better aligned with national and statescience curriculum, Enberg said. "The science curriculum, Enberg said. The science four science surfulum standards.

"I blink it looks like a wonderful science curriculum, Enberg said. The science curriculum, Enberg said. The science four science surfulum standards."

she said.
The new curriculum, noted

Fouchey, is all about "equipping students to think about those topics in a powerful way"
through a variety of methods,
not just textbooks.
Jaske, meanwhile, disagrees

with the notion that teaching the same subject in more than one year during a child's elementary school years is not educationally productive. She emphasized that younger children need that rein-forcement. About the desire to cut out redundant subjects, Enberg said

About the desire to cut out redundant subjects. Enberg said that while "reinforcement is good, the ... kids were getting the same projects every year. You don't want to do that. It was getting boring being (in) the fifth grade."

grade."
According to Fouchey, if the board approves the changes Tuesday, work will begin immediately to implement them. But that could take up to two years, with teachers attending training mandabane.

workshops.
"If the elementary curriculum "If the elementary curriculum is approved Tuesday, we'll move forward with the adoption of materials and spend time with teachers so they'll know how to apply it.".

Harrison 'block' talk June 23

Harrison High School parents with concerns about a recommended plan to go to four-by-four block scheduling in 1099-2000 will be heard.

An informational meeting for parents is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, at the Harrison High auditorium, Assistant Principal Marry Brown said.

"A letter will be sent out to the homes of the kids who will be attending (Harrison) in fall 1999," said Brown, Friday afternoon.

1999, and Brown, Friday anter-moon.
That letter, she continued, will explain 'our rationale to pursue alternative scheduling.'
Brown said Judy White, the district's assistant superinten-dent of instruction, will be at the June 23 meeting to discuss the plan and answer parents' ques-tions.

Block from page A1

who will attend that session are the same parents who attended Tuesday's Farmington Board of Education meeting, asking about the plan. See related story). Going to block scheduling much concern and controversy, particularly among the parents of students already on an Advanced Placement study track.

Those parents worry that their children – the ones who will attend Harrison during the transitional year – might somehow veer off of that track.

"Our target right now (for block scheduling) is the fall of 1999," Brown said. "But well be working with people all along the way to make sure we have any problems inconed out.

"I don't think the (school) board would approve any program that there were concerns

cortainly, some of the parents

ons.

Cortainly, some of the parents

about."

The four-by-four plan is different from the block scheduling program in place at Farmington High School.

Brown said Harrison students would take four classes for one semester, then take four other classes in the second half of the year. As tudents, however, probably would have to take courses over both semesters. At Farmington, students take all classes on Monday, three of seven classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the other four classes on Wednesdays and Fridays. An enrichment class also is scheduled for five days a week.

With four-by-four block scheduling, noted Brown, There would be fewer teachers, fewer subjects. They (students) can give more focus to those classes, so the learning is more intense."

Graffiti from page A1

Elementary School sign on Old

Timber.
On the school's west wall, they On the school's west wall, they wrote vertically with the words "F--- Jows Arab Jew Killa" accompanied by a cross figure. The letters "KKK" were also painted on a southeast corner of the school.

"The Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council of Farmington and Farmington Hills above slurs that are derogatory to any ethnic or racial population," said Karen Bolsen, council co-chairwoman, in a prepared statement. "In fact our two communities have spent a great deal of energy

developing the Guiding Principles that celebrate and support the diversity of citizons in our community.

"We're confident these are isolated incidents..."
On June 1, teachers reported that four teens about 13 years old were hanging around the school. When told to leave, the kids swore at them.

Another witness may have seen the same four teens along with six other boys near the school at 11 p.m. the day of the incident. What concerns police is the height of the messages, which means the vandals needed a way - possibly using a truck or ladder - to get up on the school. "If they are kids, they had to have some way to get up that high," Dwyer said.

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Advanced Placement courses and/or force them to miss out on invaluable electives such as

invaluable electives such as music and art.

Another Harrison parent, Cheri MacLean, expressed worries that block scheduling might be another ill-advised attempt to change what already is working. She talked about how one of her children struggled after the district changed to inventive spelling several years ago – a program that was oventually discontinued.

MacLean echoed other parents

continued.

MacLean echoed other parents
who spoke out about how Harrison alread, "is a wonderful
school, especially in the sciences
... We're really worried about
block scheduling making it very
hard to get those AP classes in
... They're already seeing what
they're going to have to drop
because they can't fit in what

they were originally scheduled to get. And band is very important, pivotal."

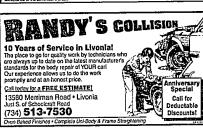
Harrison parent (Chris Schim said he didn't know about the proposed change until recoiving a letter last month. He said the tone of the letter indicated that block scheduling was a foregone conclusion, that the decision was being made without sufficient input from parents.

"How will the board help parents work with our administration to create an appropriate forum prior to anything being presented to you to act on? asked Schim, one of the parents addressing the subject during the public comment portion of the meeting.

But school officials assured them that every attempt will be made along the way to include them throughout the firming up of the four-by-four block scheduling proposal.

"We are committed to strengthening our program, not weakening it," Whit said. "We have no intention of destroying an AP program that we have spent lots of dollars and years building. "We have no (intention) of

destroying a music program that some of us have spent numerous hit receiving er last month. He said the of the letter indicated that scheduling was a foregone sign, and without sufficient from parents, we will the board help parwork with our administrator create an appropriate myrit was a foregone sign and to you to act on? I Schim, one of the parents essing the subject during onted to you to act on? I Schim, one of the parents essing the subject during onted to you to act on? I Schim one of the parents essing the subject during the subjec



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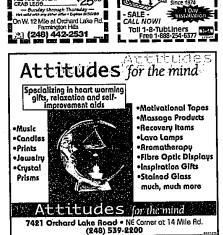
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