## EAP: C'ville officials have more to cheer about

Clarenceville school administrators, amburrased by lost year's science test scores, have a lot more to cheer about in the science scores achieved by this year's crop of test takers.

Scores on the three other test a math, reading, writing - were a mixed bag, with some surgial schad, others falling behind.

Botsford and Grandview floradors who took the 1899

Boteford and Grandview fifth gradors who took the 1999 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) science test took a hig jump upward, from last year's 26-4 percent to this year's 39 percent. In doing so, they beat the stote average of 37-5 percent by close to three points. The numbers show the

percent of fifth graders considered 'proficient' in science.
An even bigger jump was made by Clarenceville Middle School eightly graders, who went from last year's embarrassingly low 14.4 percent proficient to this year's score of 30.5 percent. The state average here is 23 percent.

The state average here is 23 per-cent.

"What these scores tell me is that when we emphasize some-thing, we do well," said Matt beettcher, the newly re-elected Clarenceville Board of Education trustee who took his oath of office Thursday. "It shows me we can succeed if we put our minds to it."

Disappointment expressed last

to it."

Disappointment expressed last year by Clarenceville administrators when the low scores were unveiled made it certain

that science would be the subject stressed this year in the two elementaries and middle school. No big jumps are seen in the other three areas tasted on the spring 1909 toats: math, reading and writing. In some areas, such as middle school reading, scores even went backward.

"To get scores to go up, you have to sacrifice other things," said Jim Lancaster, who retired last week from the district as assistant superintendent for curriculum and moved to a new job in Houston.

Even with some backward movement, 1909 scores are "a lot better than what we were talking about last year," Lancaster said.

Boettcher stuck a visual image on the 1999 MEAP scores; "The

El Disappointment expressed last year by Clarenceville administrators when the low scores were unvelled made it certain that science would be the subject streamed this year in the two elementaries and middle school.

ship is not sinking. We're holding our heads above water."
In assessing MEAP test results, educators hope to see a steady, uphili climb, not a roller-coaster ride auch as esperienced by Clarencoville in past years.
Fourth and seventh graders slightly retreated on the math test, backtracking from last test, backtracking from last year's 41.4 percent to this year's 44.7 percent to this year's

last year's 55.1 percent to this year's 50.5 percent.

Middle schoolers fell a little; they're still an area of concern, Lancaster said.

On the same writing test, the fifth graders surged forward, from last year's 74.0 percent to 70.7 percent.

The state released 1999 MEAP test scores Thursday, about two weeks later than thay were scheduled to be released because of a scoring glitch on the science test.

tost.
The glitch, a question missed
by the scoring company, has
since been cleared up,
Fifth-grade science scores are
now accurate, officials said.

# District's middle schools decline on reading portion

HY RICHARD PEARL STAFF WEITER FDERT OG LOMOGONIM. 1181

As expected, Farmington Public Schools attudust continued to outperform the state average in the "authors" continued to outperform the state average in the "authors" category in the Michigan Education Assessment Program tests, but it slipped behind Oakland County recults in one area.

That area is zeventh-grade reading, the same segment in which the district away is load over the state narrow.

Oakland County zchools totaled 61 parcont in the MEAP's antisfactory reading category, beeting the Farmington district's 51.7 percent.

However, Parmington still led the attactive Michigan MEAP average, though the lead narrowed a good bit. The attact average rose 4.2 percent, from

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#### FARMINGTON **SCHOOLS**

48.8 percent in 1998 to 53.0 in '99, while Farmington's performance slipped 2.8 percent, from 60.3 percent in '98 to this year's 57.7.

percent, from our percent of the per

Gene Seaborn, East principal, said he

n't arrive until after school was finished for the year and the teachers had gone. However, Carolyn Mahelak, retiring assessment coordinator for the district, pointed out that all four schools did well in the story-reading portion of the MEAP, but all four declined in the informational reading portion, bringing their everall scores down.

Also, eits said, East may be more aubject than the others to students enrolling and then dropping out from year to year.

carroning and tene aropping out from year to year.

But the improvement in statewide reading scores samed praise from Gov. John Engler, who last week signed legislation creating the Michigan Merit Award Scholarships for students.

Engler said he is pleased to see "steady improvement" in the reading tests, noting that reading "is the fundamental key to understanding any subject."

ject."
With the scholarships in place, he said, "students and educators will have a clear goal in mind as they work toward continued improvement."

Statewide averages were released in Lensing Thursday by the Department of Education after several weeks' delay

Lansing Thursday by the Department of Education after several weeks delay due to an error in seering some districts science results. Farmington was not among those districts. Comparisons between Farmington, Oakland County and etate averages in mathematics, reading, science and writing:

B Mathematics - 7th Grade: Farmington 76 percent, Oakland County 73.2 percent, Michigan 63.2 percent, Michigan 63.2 percent, Michigan 63.2 percent. 4th Grade: Farmington 84.1 percent, Oakland County 79.2 percent. 5Michigan 71.7 percent.

B Reading - 7th: Farm. 57.7, OC 61, state 59.4.

B Science - 8th: Farm. 57.7, OC 67.9, state 59.4.

B Science - 8th: Farm. 53, OC 45.9, state 37.5.

Writing - 8th: Farm. 85.5, OC 69.2,

or.to.

■ Writing – 8th: Farm. 85.5, OC 69.2, atate 63.5, 5th: Farm. 72.1, OC 65.8, state 54.8.



Bun Prove a sal Bunta Explain: Carolyn Mahalah says the middle schools did well in the story-reading portion.



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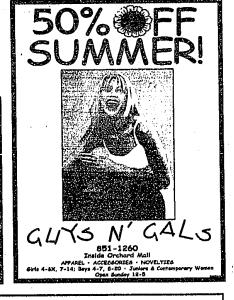
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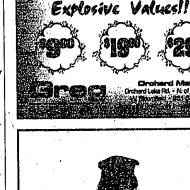
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