

Chance of scholarship spurs MEAP participation

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For Clarenceville High Juniors, the chance of earning a \$2,500 scholarship from the state turned out to be a mighty big motivator.

Clarenceville School District juniors who spurred the annual Michigan Educational Assessment Program test in 1998 returned in droves this year to take it.

They hunkered down over the math, reading, science and writing tests last spring and then turned in some of the best scores ever.

"That's a significant amount of money in Clarenceville," said Superintendent Tom Tattan. "In other communities where they have a higher socio-economic base, that might not mean as much."

On all four tests, Clarenceville's juniors more than doubled scores earned on the 1998 test. They more than dou-

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bled the number of students who took the tests, and they beat the state average on each of the four tests. On the writing test, their score jumped dramatically, from 37.5 percent to 88.2 percent.

"I'm tickled," said Clarenceville principal David Simowski. "This is not a fluke. The work we have been doing on aligning our curriculum is beginning to pay off. It takes time for things to come to fruition."

The state has promised all juniors who scored in the top two levels on all four tests a \$2,500

scholarship to be used at a post-graduation Michigan school, including technical training.

Students who score in the top three levels get a state-endorsed diploma. In writing, for instance, the 99.2 percent depicts the percentage of students getting a state endorsed diploma in writing. In 1998, the state average is 85.4 percent.

Students who score in the lowest, fourth, level can take the test over, in a second effort to earn the state's endorsement.

Results of a fifth test taken, social studies, will not be considered in determining who gets the scholarship, Tattan said. Scores on this test have not yet been announced.

The state is still working out details on how and when students will get the check, Tattan said.

The state turned to the scholarship carrot last year when juniors statewide boycotted tests because they saw no reason to

Clarenceville 1999 High School MEAP Test Scores

MATHEMATICS									
ENDORSED					Number of Students				
Year	Group	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
1998	Clarenceville	22.2%	27.1%	10.7%	6.8%	35			
1998	State	20%	45%	10%	25%	20			
1999	Clarenceville	22.8%	41%	17.4%	18.8%	61,889			
1999	State	20.7%	39.8%	17.2%	22.3%	60,000			

READING									
ENDORSED					Number of Students				
Year	Group	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
1998	Clarenceville	28.3%	48.3%	8.2%	8.2%	35			
1998	State	12.5%	45.8%	12.5%	29.2%	20			
1999	Clarenceville	17.1%	44.8%	14.8%	23.3%	61,889			
1999	State	14.4%	50.2%	17.0%	18.4%	60,000			

SCIENCE									
ENDORSED					Number of Students				
Year	Group	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
1998	Clarenceville	8.3%	99.4%	19.2%	18.3%	37			
1998	State	3.9%	50%	25%	21.4%	20			
1999	Clarenceville	7.2%	42.8%	28.3%	18.7%	60,854			
1999	State	6.4%	43.3%	27.7%	20.6%	60,437			

WRITING									
ENDORSED					Number of Students				
Year	Group	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
1998	Clarenceville	7.8%	82.3%	26.4%	3.8%	35			
1998	State	4.2%	8.3%	25%	62.5%	20			
1999	Clarenceville	8.8%	48.7%	32.9%	10.6%	61,889			
1999	State	10.3%	46.3%	27.2%	16.2%	60,000			

take it. This included juniors in both Clarenceville and Livonia Public Schools.

Before the tests were given this year, Simowski said he met with the juniors to tell them that the proposal to give scholarships could become law. It did.

"I told them, 'give yourself this opportunity,'" Simowski said. "One half of the class took it;

that's doubled from the previous year."

On the math test, the percentage of juniors earning a state endorsement improved from 75 percent in 1998 to 91 percent in 1999. In 1999, the state average is 81 percent.

On the reading test, the percentage of juniors earning a state endorsement increased

from 70.8 percent in 1998 to 91.6 percent in 1999. In 1999, the state average is 82.2 percent.

On the science test, the percentage of juniors earning a state endorsement climbed from 78.6 percent in 1998 to 84.2 percent in 1999. In 1999, the state average is 83.4 percent.

On the writing test, the percentage of juniors earning a state endorsement increased

Harrison High marchers raise 'Hair' at regional competition

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER

The Farmington Harrison Marching Band had the 15,000 spectators at the Bands of America Regional Championships swaying on their benches to familiar strains from the musical "Hair."

It was definitely the dawning of the Age of Aquarius at the University of Toledo Oct. 2.

"I think we had the audience behind us a lot and it was really nice," said band director Mark Phillips. "I think it kind of ties in with the millennium. It is like a glimpse of a generation of our times. People relate to it and it is just plain fun."

And that's just what the 122 band members think, too. Even the costumes brought a knowing smile from many a baby-boomer spectator. The Harrison performers were decked out in jeans, brightly colored tie-dyed shirts and Afro or long blond wigs.

"This is our best show so far," said junior clarinetist Brian Fink. "It was a lot of fun to do."

Sophomore clarinetist Lenna Barczynski agreed. "It was fun, really awesome," she said.

The band competed with 30 bands from six states and netted a score of 68.45, putting them in 15th place after the preliminary competition.

Five Michigan bands advanced to the final evening competition. Durand came in 10th, Hudsonville took ninth, Jenison captured eighth, Reeths-Puffer took fifth and Plymouth-Canton captured second.

Although Harrison's performance didn't land them a place in the top 10 evening finals competition, the band's score was a 12-point improvement from their first competition.

"Our goal is always to improve and do our best and the kids totally reached that goal," said Phillips. "I thought they did great and I think that might inspire them to keep up the really hard work. Everyone really



DIANE HANSON

Hard work: Above and at right, members of the Harrison Marching Band move to the beat as they perform familiar sounds from the musical "Hair" during a regional performance.

has gotten on track the last two weeks."

The band puts in three hours of after-school practice each week. Weekends mean practice before competitions and performing for football games.

And it hasn't been easy this year with school construction and no lines on the football field. "It makes it more of a challenge," said Phillips.

"It is a lot of hard work, but it is worth it," said senior flutist Sarah Keller. "I love it. I'm very excited about this year."

The band earned a first-place trophy in Flight III and a caption award for best music at their first competition at the Novi Invitational on Sept. 18 with a score of 57.8.

Color Guard Director Jason McIntosh sees lots of improvement ahead for his guard members.

"This is a rebuilding year because this is the largest group of incoming freshmen we have

had," he said. "But this may turn out to be one of our strongest years because they are all having a lot of fun with this program. I mean, how could you not?"

"They're having a good time with it and they're wanting to put the time in because it just feels good to do it. You can't get bored with this show."

The Farmington Harrison production of "Hair" can be seen at football games and upcoming competitions:

■ Oct. 9: Huron Valley Invitational at Milford High School.

■ Oct. 10: Flint Atwood Invitational.

■ Oct. 16: Great Lakes Invitational, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

■ Oct. 23: Westland Invitational, John Glenn High School.

■ Oct. 30: State Championships, Pontiac Silverdome.

■ Nov. 11-13: Bands of America Grand National Championships, Indianapolis.



Council adopts ordinances to reap revenues

Some members of the Farmington Hills City Council said they felt like their hands were cuffed when they approved stiffer drunk driving ordinances to comply with a new state law.

Council approved the measure 5-2, with Councilman Jerry Ellis and Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio dissenting.

The new laws, which took effect Friday, crack down on repeat drunken driving offenders by increasing jail sentences, providing for seizure and immobilization of vehicles, confiscating license plates and forcing multiple offenders to use temporary paper license plates.

Hills City Attorney John Donohue told council last week that if they did not enact the ordinances, they could lose out on revenue available through the state on drunken driving offenders.

"You will have no (Operating Under the Influence of Liquor) ordinance" if it is not passed, Donohue said. "The revenues and fines will not come back to

the city."

Councilman Jerry Ellis said that put him in a catch-22 position.

"I have to choose between my principles and money," Ellis said.

"I didn't like it when Michigan passed this," he said. "These (laws) allow confiscation of a person's property without due process."

Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio said the laws would punish the innocent as much as the guilty.

"This thing stinks," said Oliverio, adding that the new law would treat offenders as guilty until proven innocent and punish spouses, parents and children of convicted drunken drivers whose cars were immobilized or seized.

Under the new law, those convicted of driving while their license is suspended, operating under the influence of alcohol or refusing to take chemical tests could face a maximum of 93 days in jail. Subsequent convictions could lead to vehicle immobilization

and seizure, with those costs assessed to the defendant.

Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said he admires the new law's intent but it's requirements could create hardships for some departments, particularly small ones.

"It's a good law," Dwyer said. "It's necessary to get those people off the road. The concern most police departments have is with the implementation phase."

One woman was already arrested and processed under the new law in Farmington Hills. Police officers now have to process and lodge defendants they only had to ticket before. This process can take up to three hours, valuable time for a small police department with only one officer on midnight patrol, Dwyer said.

"Legislators thought (the law) through as far as punishments go, but not the increased workload that has been created for police departments, courts and prosecutors' offices," Dwyer said.

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