

Math courses equal skills

The notion that white girls and Black students of either sex can do as well as white boys in mathematics gained more support this past week as an expert on testing released results of a study of almost 10,000 high school students across the United States.

White female and Black high school seniors scored just as high as white male seniors on math examinations, the study showed, if they were equally skilled as sophomores and if they had taken the same number of math courses.

Dr. Lyle V. Jones of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who conducted the study, said the research suggests that historical differences in mathematics test scores could be reduced further if not eliminated by encouraging girls and Black males to study math.

"These results emphasize the importance of guiding all students in elementary and secondary schools, not just white males, to enroll in mathematics and science courses," he said.

Jones is the author of several widely publicized studies showing that Black children are closing the gap between scores they make on standardized tests like the SAT and scores made by white children. At UNC, he is Alumni Distinguished professor of psychology and director of the L. L. Thurstone Psychometric Laboratory.

The new study, financed by the National Science Foundation and presented at a recent meeting of the American Educational Research Association, compared how 9,700 students who had taken achievement tests as sophomores during 1980 fared on similar tests as seniors in 1982.

The tests measured skills in computation, arithmetic reasoning, graph reading, elementary algebra and geometry and were part of High School and Beyond, a project of the National Center for Education Statistics.

As expected, Jones said, students who continued to take courses like advanced algebra and trigonometry in their final two years of high school scored significantly higher in 1982 than students who demonstrated equal ability in 1980, but stopped taking math.

Those who had taken math all the way through averaged 82 percent correct answers, while those whose transcripts showed no courses at the algebra I level or beyond averaged only 37 percent correct answers.

"There have been a number of suggestions in the literature that males somehow perform better or learn more from mathematics than females do," Jones said. "Research continues to show that the average tests scores of whites in math is higher than the average score for Black students at the same grade level."

Whites did do better overall than Blacks on the High School and Beyond tests and boys fared slightly better than girls. But after controlling for advanced coursework and sophomore performance, the psychologist found that the score differences disappeared completely.

"The important elements in the changes in achievement appear to be the initial level of skill and the courses that the students took in high school," he said. "This suggests that by providing more equal learning opportunities from kindergarten and grade school onward, we would approach equal performance."

Jones warned parents, teachers and guidance counselors not to prejudice any children against mathematics, regardless of what their own experiences with the subject were while growing up.

"Whether or not they choose to continue in higher education, students will find that understanding sufficient mathematics and science will help them keep up with changes in our technological age," he said.

School Lunch Menu

Monday, June 10
Cheeseburger w/French Fries
Whole Kernel Corn
Pear Slices
Mega Chip Cookie
Milk

Tuesday, June 11
Burrito Supreme
Lettuce & Tomato
Peach Slices
Summer Birthday Cake
Milk

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* 8288 SW Holomisa Ct, Lake Oswego 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 946 Sq Ft \$50,000	3831 N Juneau St, Portland 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 925 Sq Ft \$29,500	12805 81st Ave NE, Vancouver 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 988 Sq Ft \$27,300	* 7405 NE 121st Ave, Vancouver 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 1004 Sq Ft \$38,000
			4225 4th St, Greatham 3 Bd, 2 Ba, 1178 Sq Ft \$48,500

BID OPENING HOMES

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BID OPENING 1:00 PM JUNE 10

* 1815 Mary's Way, Central Point 3 Bd, 2 Ba, 1188 Sq Ft \$47,000	435 Berkley W, Gladstone 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 1079 Sq Ft \$38,000	737 Lincoln St, Klamath Falls 2 Bd, 1 Ba, 1156 Sq Ft \$5000	1738 Prescott St N, Portland 2 Bd, 1 Ba, 608 Sq Ft \$17,000
* 387 Broadway St N, Estacade 2 Bd, 1 Ba, 740 Sq Ft \$32,000	1800 Tamara Cir, Grants Pass 3 Bd, 2 Ba, 1100 Sq Ft \$39,000	434 Main E, Pilot Rock 2 Bd, 1 Ba, 1046 Sq Ft \$10,000	* 800 Lincoln St, Silverton 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 1142 Sq Ft \$33,000
* 3785 Concord St, Eugene 2 Bd, 1 Ba, 824 Sq Ft \$21,500	1788 Orchard St, Eugene 1 Bd, 1 Ba, 976 Sq Ft \$15,900	4317 Avalon Pl, Klamath Falls 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 1378 Sq Ft \$17,000	583 17th St N, Springfield 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 1210 Sq Ft \$19,900
		5019 25th Ave NE, Portland 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 1321 Sq Ft \$19,000	13720 36TH St NE, Vancouver 4 Bd, 1 Ba, 1279 Sq Ft \$32,000

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11790 Cheahire Rd SW, Beaverton 4 Bd, 3 Ba, 1820 Sq Ft \$71,000	219 Howland St, Myrtle Creek 2 Bd, 1 Ba, 576 Sq Ft \$16,850	4324 Grand Ave NE, Portland 2 Bd, 1 Ba, 860 Sq Ft \$17,000	* 4723 Raffon Dr SE, Salem 2 Bd, 1 Ba, 807 Sq Ft \$32,000
80 Fremont Way SW, Beaverton 4 Bd, 1 Ba, 1140 Sq Ft \$43,000	804 5th St SW, Pendleton 1 Bd, 1 Ba, 768 Sq Ft \$19,800	8730-32 Albina Ave N, Portland 2 Bd, 2 Ba, 1150 Sq Ft Duplex \$25,000	4850 D'Anconia Dr, Trail 2 Bd, 2 Ba, 1440 Sq Ft 5.2 acres \$35,000
1305 Van Buren, Cottage Grove 2 Bd, 1 Ba, 796 Sq Ft \$13,900	4818 11th Ave NE, Portland 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 1124 Sq Ft \$15,350	8324 Calhoun St N, Portland 2 Bd, 1 Ba, 720 Sq Ft \$20,000	24 Martin Dr, Umatilla 3 Bd, 1 Ba, 1056 Sq Ft \$40,100
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