

Kindergarten readiness rated

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Four months after kindergarteners started school, the Oregon Department of Education released the results from tests that were taken in those first weeks.

Kindergarteners at local and statewide schools were tested on self-regulation, interpersonal skills, early mathematics, and identifying English letter names and sounds.

Polk County schools ranked both above and below state average, depending on the school district.

The information can be useful, but is mostly to guide pre-kindergarten learning, whether it be preschool, Montessori school or at-home learning, said Steve Tillery, Independence Elementary School principal.

“Our children are very low in comparison to the rest of the state in the skills they are coming in (to school) knowing,” he said. The assessments “give us a good indication that our children aren’t attending preschool.

“It’s also showing us that our parents aren’t spending a lot of time working on those school readiness skills.”

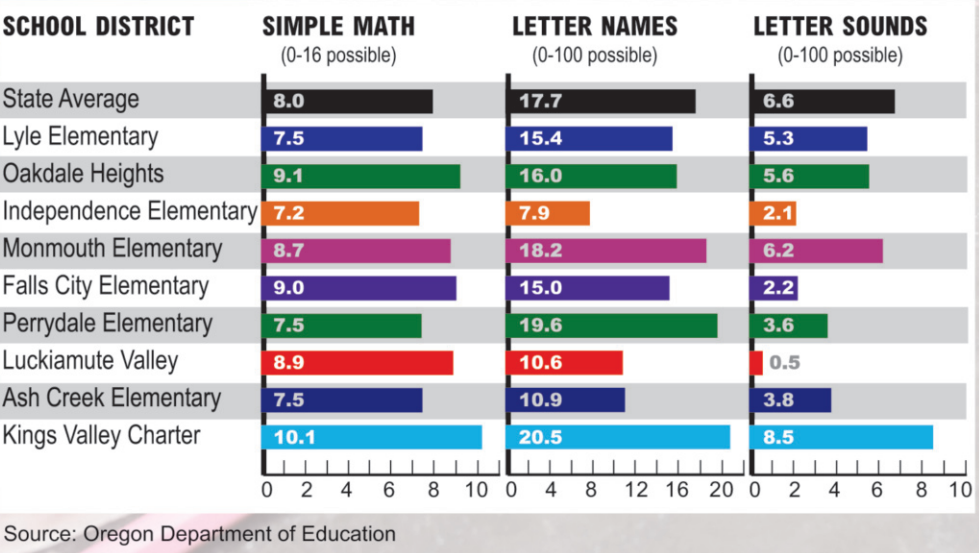
In early mathematics, IES kindergarteners averaged 7.2 compared to the 8.0 state average. When it came to identifying English letters, IES averaged 7.9 compared to 17.7 statewide. In getting letter sounds right, IES students averaged 2.1 compared to 6.6 statewide.

The math test is comprised of 16 questions and is untimed. The scores administered reflect how many questions a student answered correctly.

The English letters and sounds are scored 0-100 in a timed environment. But students are not expected to identify 100 sounds and letter names, said Aimee Craig, early learning public affairs director for the ODE. The reason

Oregon kindergarten assessment

This is the second year the state has collected a snapshot of children’s skills and knowledge when they first enter kindergarten. These assessments give schools a way to analyze early education experiences children have before they enter school. The tests are not comprehensive. Kids are tested on early mathematics, recall of the names of English letters, and how letters and groups of letters sound.



Results from kindergarten assessments in Polk County were mixed, with some schools scoring above the state average on knowledge measures and others scoring below.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Monmouth Elementary School kindergarten teacher Samantha Henderson helps Abdullah Aldeghaithir with a math problem during a recent class session.

100 choices are provided is so a teacher doesn’t run out of letters during the assessment.

“It’s a fluency measure,” she said. “So if a kid comes in who knows a lot of letter sounds and letter names, they can get through a lot in

60 seconds.”

The letters and sounds test includes duplicates, lower and upper case, Craig said.

So the state average on identifying English letter names is 17.7, which means kindergarteners could, on

average statewide, identify 17.7 letter names in 60 seconds, she said.

Tillery said the information in the assessment is not used to make decisions about instruction.

Caleb Harris, principal at Oakdale Heights Elementary School in Dallas, said the state test can’t be used to influence instruction because it is released four months after the fact.

“Here we are in January and we’re just now looking at our results,” he said. “From an instructional standpoint, this is not something we can use.”

Instead, teachers at IES and Oakdale Heights use their own assessment tools throughout the school year.

Those tests at the building level go beyond a child’s knowledge of letters, sounds and basic math, Harris said, and include things such as can he or she hold a pencil or cut on a line.

See READINESS, Page 14A

SCHOOL NOTES

CHS senior party fundraiser on tap

MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — A fundraiser to benefit the Central High School Senior All-Night Party will be held Wednesday (today) from 5 to 8 p.m. at Monmouth Burgerville.

During that time, 10 percent of all sales will go toward the annual all-night party for Central High’s graduating senior class. Burgerville is located at 615 Main St.

For more information: Central High School, 503-838-0480; Monmouth Burgerville, 503-838-6096.

Bond oversight committee named

DALLAS — The Dallas School Board appointed seven members to its recently passed facilities and maintenance bond Citizens Oversight Committee Jan. 12.

Committee members are responsible for making sure bond revenue is spent properly, prioritizing projects and making recommendations to the board.

Those appointed to the committee were: Dave Pederson, chairman; Bill Blair; Matt Forsberg; Vonnie Good; Rich McFarland; Sheila Myers; and Gary Suderman. District officials Dennis Engle, interim superintendent; Tami Montague, business manager; Kevin Montague, facilities director; and Tim Larson, athletic director, also are assigned to the committee.

The group met for the first time on Thursday and will meet on a monthly basis. All meetings of the committee are open to the public.

For more information, or to see meeting agendas and minutes from committee meetings, go to the district website: www.dallas.k12.or.us.

Budget committee member needed

DALLAS — The Dallas School District Board of Directors is seeking an individual to fill a vacancy on the district’s budget committee.

To serve on the committee, an individual must be a registered voter who resides within the Dallas School District, and cannot be an employee, officer or agent of the school district. The term of appointment begins March 1 and continues through Feb. 28, 2018.

Those interested in the position should contact Dennis Engle, interim superintendent, at 503-623-5594 no later than Feb. 6. Candidates will be interviewed and/or announced at the Feb. 9 Dallas School Board meeting.

KVCS ‘kindergarten lottery’ slated

KINGS VALLEY — Kings Valley Charter School is accepting kindergarten registration for its upcoming “kindergarten lottery” for the 2015-16 school year.

Any parent who wants to have a chance at having their child enrolled in the kindergarten class at KVCS must have submitted completed paperwork in advance of the lottery. Forms are available at the school office.

The “kindergarten lottery” will take place Jan. 29 at 1 p.m. in the school office, 38840 Kings Valley Highway, between Dallas and Philomath.

For more information: Kings Valley Charter School, 541-929-2134.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Monmouth youth earns recognition

FRONT ROYAL, Va. — Lucas Costa of Monmouth has been named to Randolph-Macon Academy’s president’s list for the first quarter of the 2014-15 school year. To be named to the president’s list, a student must earn a grade-point average of 4.0 or higher. Costa is a sophomore at Randolph-Macon Academy.

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Joe's January Clearance Sale

4X4 Trucks

2006 Dodge Ram 2500\$28,995
Heavy Duty Quad Cab, SLT 4x4, 5.7 Liter HEMI, Big Horn Edition, iPod Ready, Spray-in Bedliner, Auto Tran, PS, Rear Slider, Running Brds, Tow Pkg. 237715

2003 Chev Silverado\$18,995
One Owner, Crew Cab, 4x4, Dual Auto AC, Locking Rear Differential, Running Brds. 75639

2001 F-150 Lariat 4x4.....\$9,995
Leather, Htd Seats, Moonroof, 5.4L V8, Tow Pkg, Off Road Pkg, PS, 6 Disc CD, 6 Passenger. 63751

2008 Sport Trac 4x4\$19,995
Auto, Heated Seats, Moonroof, P.Seats, Running Board, Tow Pkg, Hard Tonneau Cover. 60168

1997 F-150 XLT Ext Cab 4x4.....\$9,995
Lifted, Off Road Pkg, Running Brds, Prem Alpine Sound Sys, 3 Doors, 6 Pass, Tow Pkg. 93580

SUV's

2011 Ford Explorer Limited.....\$29,995
One Owner, 4x4, Leather, Dual Power, Heated/AC Seats, Driver Side Memory, Moonroof, Nav, Reverse Sensors, Backup Camera. 68753

2011 Honda CRV 4x4\$19,995
One Owner, Auto, Traction Control, MP3 CD, iPod Ready, more. 67462

2010 Nissan Rogue\$14,995
AWD, CD, AC, 2.5 Liter 4 Cylinder, iPod Ready, Cruise Control, All Power Equipment. 09587

2005 Escape\$7,995
4x4, CD, AC, Cruise Control, Auto Transmission, PW, PL, So Much More. 07227

2002 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4.....\$8,995
Loaded with Leather, Moonroof, Running Boards, 6 Disc CD, 7 Passenger 3rd Row Seating, Power Seat, Reverse Sensors, Tow Pkg, Rear AC, more. 00629

Domestics

2013 Mustang\$19,985
One Owner, Loaded Premium Pkg, Leather, Sync Voice Activated Bluetooth, Shiftable Auto Tran. 42145

2012 Fusion SEL\$17,995
One Owner, Leather, Heated Seats, Moonroof, Sync Voice Activated Bluetooth, More. 94893

2011 Fusion SEL AWD\$17,995
One Owner, Leather, Htd Seats, Sync Voice Activated Bluetooth, Backup Camera, Reverse Sensors. 74179

2013 Chevy Cruze\$15,995
One Owner, 1.4L Turbo, 6 spd, Triple OD, Prem Wheels, Rear Spoiler, Back-up Camera, PS. 00928

2003 Taurus SES\$5,995
Equipped with Power Seat, CD, AC, 6 Pass, CC, Tilt, PW, PL. 64555

Imports

2003 Audi TT Coupe.....\$9,995
1.8L Turbo, 6 Spd Shiftable Automatic Rear Spoiler, Leather. 05458

2007 BMW 328Xi Coupe\$19,995
AWD, Leather, Heated Seats, Memory Seats, Moonroof, Dual Auto AC, Dual Power Seats, Push Button Start, more. 06575

2009 Jaguar XF\$23,853
Premium Luxury Sedan, 4.2L V8, Leather, Htd Seats, Memory Seats, Navigation, Moonroof, More. 22983

2008 Hyundai Entourage\$10,995
Dual Sliding Doors, Dual AC, Rear AC, Slo-n-Go 3rd Row, Quad Captains Chairs. 45293

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