

Test results provide baseline

Schools get first look at how students performed on Common Core tests

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Student performance on the new Smarter Balanced assessments revealed some encouraging numbers, areas needing work on — and lost data — for local school districts.

Schools across the state administered the new test, which was more difficult and in a new format, for the first time last spring.

The state released the complete data on Sept. 17.

As expected, all school districts have work to do to get their students to the “college and career ready” levels that are the new achievement benchmark on the Common Core-based test.

Test scores fell into four categories, with level 4 being the highest and level 1 the lowest. Students earning level 3 and 4 on the test are considered “college and career ready” for their grade level. Those earning level 2 or lower are behind. Statewide, students achieved a level 3 and above at a 54 percent rate for language arts and at 41 percent rate for math.

“It gives us some good data to work with, for sure,” said Perrydale Superintendent Eric Milburn of the first set of results.

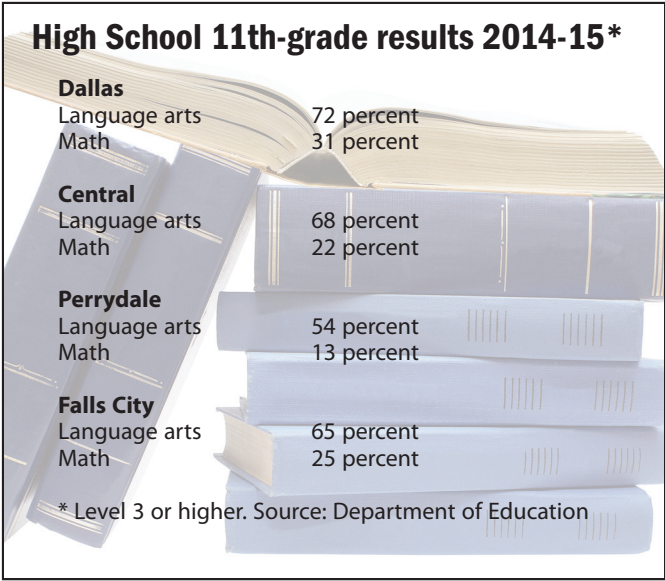
Perrydale appears to have fallen victim to what Milburn hopes would be a first-year glitch. The state apparently lost school’s fifth-grade math test data.

“I know for a fact that we did (take the test), but it’s not there,” Milburn said. “They can’t find any data proof.”

The issue had Perrydale miss the state’s testing participation target of 95 percent. With the missing scores it is at 84.4 percent.

In spite of that snafu, Milburn said he was pleased with the scores.

“In comparison with the



Graphic by JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Juniors in Polk County had mixed result on new tests.

state, we did fairly well,” Milburn said.

Perrydale’s scores were above of the state average at most grades, though there was one notable exception: 11th grade math.

Last year’s juniors only scored a level 3 or higher at a 13 percent rate. Milburn explained that many had already demonstrated achievement of essential skills required for graduation before taking the test. He said, for some, it was hard to take the test seriously under that circumstance.

While it’s hard to measure progress year to year with a new test, Central School District appears to have its work cut out for it. Students exceeded the state average for level 3 and 4 in high school language arts, with a 67.5 percent rate. Central Superintendent Buzz Brazeau noted the older students had little time to conquer Common Core standards.

“The older kids, they did well in language arts, but they struggled a bit in math,” he said.

Only 22.4 percent of juniors scored at a level 3 or higher.

That doesn’t mean that nearly 80 percent of Cen-

tral’s seniors are at risk to not graduate. Keeping in line with state law, the State Board of Education adopted a separate set of scores for graduation requirements: level 2 on the math and reading test, and level 3 on the writing portion. That was necessary because Oregon is required to notify students when they are in eighth grade what is required for graduation.

If they miss those marks, students can provide work samples to show achievement of “essential skills” in reading, writing and math to qualify for graduation.

Dallas School District saw scores hovering around state averages at most grades and much better than expected based on field testing of the assessment before Smarter Balanced went statewide.

“We know we have a lot of room to grow,” said Steve Martinelli, the district’s director of instructional services. “We are looking to continue to try to grow in the mathematics.”

Last year’s group of seventh graders trailed the rest of the state in language arts and math by a significant amount, following a pattern since third grade. Martinelli

said the district staff will be taking a deeper look at the data to help those students.

“It’s a concern that we know that and we haven’t been about to close that gap,” Martinelli said.

With its smaller class sizes, Falls City’s assessment scores are often volatile. This year was no exception.

Last year’s juniors scored close to the state average in language arts, though all other grades in both math and language arts fell short.

Superintendent Jack Thompson said comparisons to last year are difficult, but that doesn’t mean he’s pleased with the results.

“Not even close,” he said.

He said the district has in the last two years adopted new Common Core-based curriculum and that should help in future years.

Thompson said he’s hoping the new test will provide similar details about how students performed on certain parts as Oregon’s former assessment, OAKS. He said that information was used to tutor students.

“That was (valuable) information,” he said. “Ultimately, it (the test) needs to be something that we can use in the classroom.”

For more information or to look at the results: www.ode.state.or.us.

SCHOOL NOTES

Lunch program now at The Gate

INDEPENDENCE – For the last 26 years, The Gate has hosted “church lunch” across the street from Central High School at the Baptist Church.

All students may attend during their lunch period, where they may eat lunch for \$2 and listen to a speaker.

Sponsorships are available for students unable to pay. For more information: Diane Riddell, bdridell6@gmail.com.

Rotary Clubs accepting applicants

POLK COUNTY – Every year, the Rotary clubs of Dallas and Monmouth-Independence host high school students from more than 20 different countries.

The clubs also give opportunities to local high school students to travel internationally through the program.

For more information about hosting a foreign exchange student, or to apply to become one: Bob Archer (Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club), barch@minetfiber.com, 503-409-4039; Dallas Rotary Club, contact on Facebook.

WOU to study rural Latino children

MONMOUTH – Doris Cancel-Tirado, assistant principal of health at Western Oregon University, was awarded a 24-month, \$100,000 grant through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s New Connections program.

The grant will allow her to explore the associations among individual, family and community factors, and the mental and physical well-being of rural Latino children.

It will also allow Cancel-Tirado to explore Latina mothers’ perceived barriers and opportunities to providing their children the best foundation for healthy development and productive lives.

The results of the project will inform initiatives to support low-income Latino children that could potentially decrease health disparities.

KVCS begins annual wreath sale

KINGS VALLEY — Kings Valley Charter School is taking orders for holiday wreaths between now and Oct. 20 The fundraiser benefits the Parent Teacher Organization. Contact, hukari@peak.org.

RECYCLE
this newspaper

Happy 18th Birthday!

Brittany Dawn Varney

We love you so much!

xoxo ☺

OPAL
October Birthstone

Throughout history, Opal has been regarded as a stone of good fortune. In ancient times, it was believed the gem possessed magical powers.

20% Off
this month

Brixius JEWELERS

503-623-3117
837 Main St. • Dallas

Mon-Fri 9-5:30
Sat 9-1

Community Events Calendar brought to you by these Monmouth Business Association participants.

We Care About Our Community! Building Unity in Our Community! Please clip out this calendar & post it on your fridge!

MINET
405 Hogan Rd
Monmouth
503-837-0700
www.minetfiber.com
Your Local Service Provider

Oregon State Credit Union
800-732-0173
464 S Pacific Hwy
Monmouth
osufederal.com

Saving Carpets Daily
Carpet Hero
503-838-0869
Monmouth

LOOKING FOR RENTALS?
297½ N. Pacific Hwy
503-838-1278
Western View Properties
Property Management, LLC

MONMOUTH FITNESS CLUB
503-838-2951
165 E. Main St.
Monmouth

RETALS & JEWELS
503-838-1773
410 E. Main St.
Monmouth

Windermere REAL ESTATE
www.windermere.com
503-838-1141
297 N Pacific
Monmouth

PCL Partnerships in Community Living
503-838-2403
480 E. Main St.
Monmouth

DownTown Trends
142 Highway 99 West
503- 838-1445
Monmouth

Monmouth Senior Center
180 S. Warren St.
Monmouth

355 N Pacific Ave., Ste A
Monmouth
503-838-4268

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503-623-2373
503-838-3467

MONMOUTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

October 2015

Monmouth Area Community Events Calendar

Oct. 4 Polk County Flea Market. 9 am to 3 pm. Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S Pacific Hwy W. Rickreall. Polk County’s oldest and largest market with 183 tables selling antiques, collectibles, tools, etc. Admission \$1. For more info contact Deb Thomas 503-428-8224.

Oct. 6 Monmouth Independence Chamber of Commerce presents the FALL SERIES PEP Talks. Beginning with **How to Increase Your Business Faster & Easier** by David Harrison. Workshops are held 1 pm to 2 pm at Henry Hill Community Center, 750 S. 5th St. Independence. Light refreshments included in cost. \$10 MI Chamber members and \$15 for non members. Reserve your spot online at www.micc-or.org or by calling the chamber before noon on October 5th, 503-838-4268.

Oct. 10 Brunk House Apple Festival. 10 am to 3 pm. Make and buy your own fresh-squeezed cider, tour a pioneer farmhouse and gardens, visit the machine sheds, and stay for delicious apple desserts for sale in the homey Brunk House kitchen. Free admission. Desserts and cider for purchase. 5705 Salem-Dallas Hwy (Hwy 22) Near the junction of Hwy 51 to Independence and Restlawn Cemetery.

Oct. 14 MI Chamber Forum: Tobacco Policies in Monmouth & Independence presented by Matthew Stevenson. Tobacco Prevention and Education Program Coordinator, Polk County Family & Community Outreach; 2 PM to 1 PM at Rogue Farms; complimentary food and drink provided by Rogue. Rogue Farms 3590 Wigrich Road Independence, OR

Oct. 15 MI Chamber Mixer: 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at Polk County Museum hosted by the Polk County Historical Society. Grow your professional network while enjoying a treasure hunt at the museum. 560 S Pacific Hwy (99W) Next to the Polk County Fairgrounds.

Oct. 17 History of the Grange in Polk County. 1:30 to 4 pm. Speaker, Lee Goodrich, will present a program describing the history of the Grange as an institution in Polk County. Admission is Free but welcome donations. Polk County Museum, 560 S Pacific Hwy (99W) Next to the Polk County Fairgrounds.

Oct. 24 Discover MI Town! This passport-style tour of businesses and organizations is designed to showcase the many wonderful restaurants, stores, and organizations we have in our community while supporting Chamber-related programs and services. The event will be held Saturday from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM in downtown Independence and downtown Monmouth. Shuttle service will be available to transport participants as they “Discover MI Town!” Tickets will go on sale once all host sites and guest vendors are confirmed. Go to www.micc-or.org for more info.

Oct. 30 Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce’s SPOOKTACULAR BINGO! See box below for info...

Oct. 30 Monmouth Downtown Trick-or-Treat Spooktacular 3:30-6 pm, safe and family friendly!

Oct. 31 Happy Halloween. Be careful of ghouls and goblins out trick or treating!

SPOOKTACULAR BINGO

October 30th
4PM - 7PM

Volunteer: Hall support for the Monmouth Halloween Trick-or-Treat Spooktacular

Open Sessions: \$1 per bingo card, \$10 for 12 cards.

Family Fun with Great Prizes! Go to www.micc-or.org for more info.

Every Tuesday 10:15 AM, Toddler Story Time for ages 18 mos. to 3 yrs. Monmouth Public Library, 168 S. Ecols St.

Every Tuesday 7:30 PM - Al-Anon Family Groups, which includes Alateen for younger members, meets at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, in Dallas. Al-Anon is an established community resource for people affected by another’s use of alcohol. The resource can aid the recovery process for the entire family through hope, comfort and loving interchange among members having a common problem. For more information call 503-370-7363, leave a message - you will be contacted.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays - 9:15 to 11 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MoPS) meets at Monmouth Christian Church, 959 W. Church St., Monmouth.

Every Wednesday 10:15 AM, Preschool Story Time for ages 3-6 years. Monmouth Library, 168 S. Ecols St.

Every Wednesday Helping Hands Emergency Food Bank, 10am to noon, Monmouth Christian Church, 959 Church St. W., Monmouth. For eligible community members; available every Wednesday. 541-404-6517.

Every Wednesday 6:30 PM - Al-Anon Family Groups, which includes Alateen for younger members, meets at Trinity Lutheran Church at 320 Fir Villa Rd. in Dallas. Al-Anon is an established community resource for people affected by another’s use of alcohol. The resource can aid the recovery process for the entire family through hope, comfort and loving interchange among members having a common problem. For more information call 503-370-7363, leave a message - you will be contacted.

Every 2nd Wednesday Monmouth-Independence Chamber lunch forum. 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Location changes. Please call Jean Love or visit our Calendar of Events at www.micc-or.org for more information. 503-838-4268

Every 3rd Wednesday each month. **BINGO at the Farm**, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Come play BINGO in the Chatoe out at Rogue Farms. Join us every third Wednesday of the month through 2014! So bring your family and friends and get ready to win! Boards, daubers, and prizes provided! Rogue Farms Chatoe Tasting Room, 3590 Wigrich Road Independence, OR

Every Thursday 7 p.m. 314 Cottonwood Way, Monmouth. **Polk and Marion County Women** meet to discuss and research alternative/safer approaches to conventional treatments of hormonal imbalance.

Every 2nd Thursday 7:00 PM Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) open meeting. Monmouth Volunteer Hall. Info: 503-838-8804

Every 3rd Thursday After Hour Mixers with Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members and friends are invited to join us for our FREE monthly after-hours mixers. Mixers are held the third Thursday of each month from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at member locations. Registration is requested to help the host site properly prepare. Attendees are encouraged to bring a small giveaway (less than \$10) to promote your business or organization. For location and or more information, contact Jean Love 503-838-4268 or visit our Calendar of Events at www.micc-or.org for more information.

Every Friday TOPS-Weight Loss Group meets at the Monmouth Church of Christ, 127 Heffley St. N., Monmouth. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information please feel free to contact Marilyn at 503-930-7936.

Every Saturday Riverview Market Now through October 9 AM - 2 PM Riverview Park 50 C. St., Independence

Every Saturday The Original Independence Farmers Market 9 am to 2 pm Umpqua Bank parking lot in historic downtown Independence.

Every 1st Saturday 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM **Monmouth Senior Center** host breakfast. All you can eat, Adults \$6 Donation, Children 12 & under \$3 Donation. **For more info: 503 838-5678**

First Saturday 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m.-3 p.m.-**Crafter’s Cottage** at the **Monmouth Senior Center**, 180 S. Warren St. Handmade items, watercolors, needlepoint, towels, bead jewelry, dolls, blankets, sweaters, jellies, etc....**New items always arriving!**