

WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY AREA SCHOOLS

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Lorri Brunner, Curriculum Director 960 South M-33, P.O. Box 308 West Branch, MI 48661 989.343.2033

January 2012

Dear Parents:

As we indicated in December, the Michigan State Board of Education has approved new "cut scores" for MEAP and MME Mathematics, Reading, Writing, Science, and Social Studies. A cut score separates test results into four levels: advanced, proficient, partially proficient, and not proficient. The new cut scores are intended to be a better measure of student progress toward being career and college ready. The term "college readiness" indicates a student is ready to succeed in first semester college courses. The term "career readiness" indicates a student is ready to succeed in introductory technical career training courses. Raising the cut scores for the MEAP and MME gives Michigan parents and students a more realistic measure of whether students are adequately prepared for the next step in their education.

Since the new cut scores are significantly higher than the previous cut scores, we anticipate a decline in the number of students who will be reported as advanced or proficient based on the 2011 MEAP and 2012 MME test results. We are confident that this decline will be temporary since we have already implemented strategies outlined in our school improvement plans to meet the needs of our students that have been identified as being below benchmark. Instruction in each K-12 classroom focuses on critical reading and writing skills. Elementary students are provided with additional instruction in reading and mathematics based on their needs. Middle school students who are identified as needing additional assistance are scheduled in intervention classes and provided with additional support in the core academic classes. High school students are provided with support through study sanctuary and credit intervention, which are offered after school on a daily basis.

We will share your child's test results from the fall 2011 MEAP test with you as soon as we are able to release this information. You may notice that your child is not at the same proficiency level as previous years when the scores are released. This does not mean that your child is not gaining academic skills. It means that at the time the test was given your child had not yet mastered the knowledge and skills being tested based on the new higher expectations. Many students may require additional time to master these skills.

We encourage you to communicate with teachers on a regular basis, to work with your child to ensure homework is completed, and to insist that your child reads as much as possible. You are strongly encouraged to attend the K-8 parent-teacher conferences scheduled for **February 8 and 9** to talk with the teachers about your child's academic progress and the resources and strategies that can help build success in the future.

If you would like additional information about changes to the state tests or information about how you can become involved in school activities, please contact your building principal. Information will be available during the K-8 parent-teacher conferences on **February 8 and 9** and during parent night activities.

Rose City Schools	Jill Retherford, Principal	343.2250
Surline Elementary School	Gail Hughey, Principal	343.2190
Surline Middle School	Patsy Marchel, Principal	343.2140
Ogemaw Heights High School	Duane Lyons, Principal	343.2020

Together we can ensure that your child makes progress each year and is on track to be career and college ready.

Sincerely,

A cursive signature of Lorri Brunner.

Lorri Brunner
Curriculum Director