



Hart Musicians Selected for Music Festival

Congratulations to the following students on being selected to perform at the Illinois Music Educators Association Festival in Lockport, IL on November 3.

Back (L to R): German Cutz, Mackenzie Freund, Annie Schloen, Ty Staehlin, Eric Johnson, Chris Joligon, Nate Stewart, Kathleen Wallace. Front (L to R): Samantha Donermeyer, Lelia Aliev, Brianna Stewart, Lauren Moss, Miranda Ryan, Katie Havighorst, Bryn Dolan, Julia McMurtrey, Amy Pearce.

James Hart Premieres Original Music Composition

“Call of the Angels,” an original musical composition written for Homewood’s James Hart School’s band, orchestra and chorus by acclaimed Chicago composer Stacy Garrop, debuted at the school’s annual Showcase Concert on October 4.

The piece of music was commissioned as a tribute to Sharon Rogers, a staunch supporter of District 153’s music education programs. Rogers died of breast cancer in 2004.



(L to R): Dr. Mike Rogers, husband of the late Sharon Rogers; Choral Director Adrienne Olsen; Band Director Jen Haselhorst; Orchestra Director Sara White; and composer Stacy Garrop

Churchill School Wins 10th Consecutive Presidential Physical Fitness Award

For an incredible tenth year in a row, Churchill School has been named the State Champion by the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Only three schools in the state receive this distinction, one each in the small, medium, and large elementary school category. Churchill School qualified in the “medium” category.

As part of the school’s physical education curriculum, students participate each fall and spring in fitness events including a one-mile walk/run, curl-ups, sit and reach stretches, pull-ups, and a shuttle run. Student data are then submitted for consideration for



the award.

Congratulations to physical education staff Jan Coules and Wendy Milnes and their students for their hard work!

Four Students Receive First “Dockweiler” Awards

Four students from Homewood School District #153 have been awarded the first “Tom Dockweiler Awards” recognizing students who showed the most improvement during the 2006-07 school year. The Homewood School Board presented students Joseph Provine, Morgan Hasler, Michael Tunstall, and Dajah Lewis with the award at its August 13th meeting.

Willow School honored Joseph Provine, a 2nd-grader last year.

Nancy Gilbert, Provine’s reading teacher, said, “He never has to be asked twice to do anything and always gives his best.”

Morgan Hasler, a 3rd-grader last year, was Churchill School’s award recipient.

Churchill Principal Cece Coffey said, “Morgan is a very focused, hard-working student. She’s been a great role model for other students in the reading center.”

Millennium School 6th-grader, Michael Tunstall, earned his school’s award after exceeding his targeted reading growth by 30 points, the largest growth in reading among the entire sixth-grade last year.

“Michael worked very hard to become a model Millennium student last year, and we’re very proud of him,” said Millennium School Assistant Principal Shirley Watkins.

James Hart School selected Dajah Lewis, an 8th-grader last year, as the

school’s most improved student.

“Dajah worked very hard during eighth grade,” said Hart Principal Michael Klein. “We’re proud of the dramatic improvements in her NWEA reading and language arts scores.”

The school board created the awards to reward student achievement in academic improvement and effort. The awards are named in honor of Thomas Dockweiler, a former school board member who stepped down from the board in May after 20 years of service. The yearly award will be presented to one student in each of the district’s four schools.



At James Hart (L to R)

Front row: Cathryn Dennison, 7th grade; Mary Carvlin, 7th grade; Patricia Evans, 8th grade; Veronica Vance, technology; Sanitra Smith, Math Lab; Mary Kay Dunne, office.

Back row: Rose Carbajal, 7th grade; Krista Sparrow, 7th grade; Meghan Noonan, Cross Categorical; Robert Johnson, industrial arts; Wayne Perry, physical education.



At Millennium (L to R)

Back row: Kristy DeRuiter, 6th grade; Samantha Malevitis, 6th grade; Pam Martin, 5th grade; James Myers, 5th grade.

Front row: Patricia Frampton, 5th grade; Sarah Fies, Daily Living Skills; Cherie Kiepora, reading support; Wayne Perry, physical education.



At Churchill (L to R)

Joya Rogers, 3rd grade; Cathy Matula, 3rd grade; Dee McManamy, math support; Lori Stephansen, 4th grade; Alison Gorbitz, 4th grade; Brienne Oliver, school psychologist.



At Willow (L to R)

Shannon Martin, kindergarten; Peggy Sandryk, 1st grade; Kate Majewski, Pre-K.

Focus on Student Assessment

Fall NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) testing took place at all four schools during the month of September. Additionally, the state has just released 2007 ISAT data and school report cards.

This special edition of the District 153 community newsletter focuses on student assessment and its importance.

About NWEA Testing

District 153 uses NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing in the fall and spring of each school year. The data help to determine students' instructional levels and to measure academic growth throughout the school year and from year to year.

MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests that the children take using a computer. That means the test becomes more difficult the more questions a child answers correctly. When a child answers incorrectly, the test becomes easier. Therefore, each student takes a test specifically created for his or her learning level.

MAP results are reported in RIT scores. This is a different type of score than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. It is also different from many tests that provide results based on a child's score compared to others in his or her grade. Instead, the RIT score is an equal-interval scale, like feet and inches, that is independent of grade level.

How Does the District Use the Data?

MAP results are used to de-

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velop teaching and intervention strategies at the district, school, classroom and individual student levels.

Teachers at all four schools use these scores, among other reasons, to help identify individual students who could benefit from such interventions as math and literacy help or students who should be in gifted education programs.

Teachers study results from their students in the classrooms to guide their instruction. At Churchill School, for example, some teachers plot out on graphs the proficiency of each student in their classroom on tested math and reading concepts. The graphs then make it easy to see which groups of students need more help with particular skills. At the school building level, administrators use the data to inform them of what activities or interventions should be offered. At Millennium School, MAP scores are used to determine what skill building activities are offered to which students during 10th period.

District-wide, MAP scores help inform decisions about

curriculum and teacher training.

2006-07 Data Results

An examination of MAP data from the 2006-07 school year shows that District 153 students, on the whole, score above the norm group which is comprised of over 5 million students nationwide in the key areas of reading and math.

"We know from ISAT and NWEA scores that our students can compete favorably with students across the state and across the country," says Superintendent Dale Mitchell. "The big question for us, that we hope NWEA will help us answer, is whether or not our students can compete with themselves by continuing to improve over their own past performance."

Mitchell said district administrators and teachers are keenly interested in NWEA data that show how many students are meeting the academic growth targets established by NWEA. Generally, over half of District 153 students at each grade level met their reading and math growth targets during the last school year (see student growth charts on page 3).

"This is about what we would expect to find in term of meeting growth targets," said Mitchell. "The challenge will be to stretch students academically and push those percentages up over the next few years so that we can be more confident that students are reaching their full potential."

To that end, teachers are being encouraged to set individual improvement goals with their students.

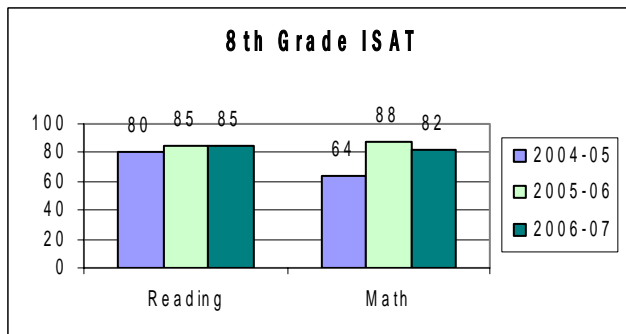
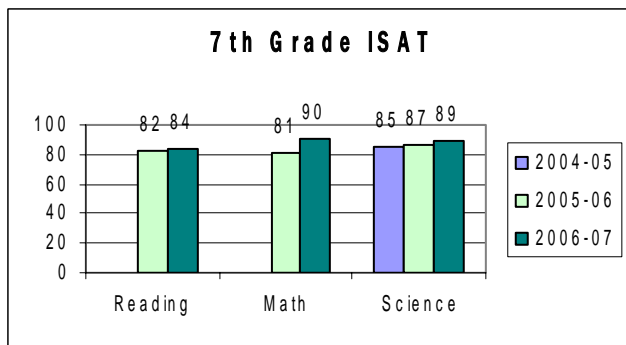
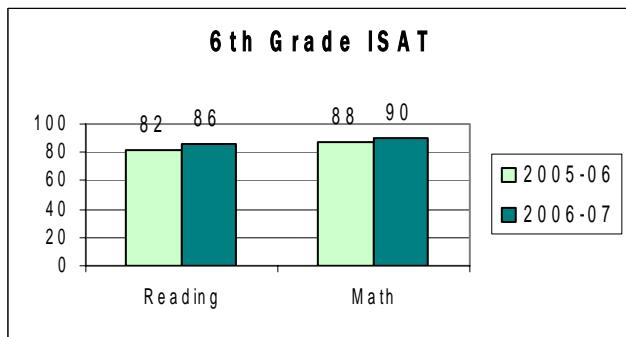
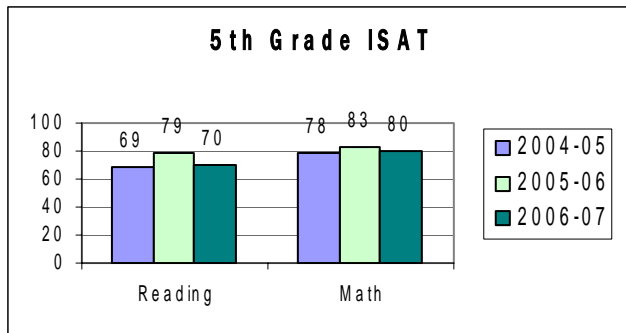
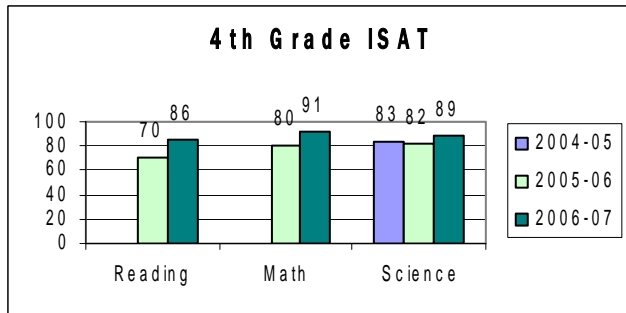
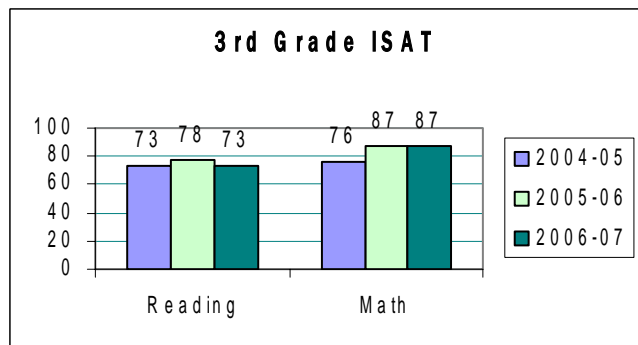
2007 ISATs: Continued High Achievement

Newly-released data from the 2007 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) show District 153 students continue to achieve at high levels. Almost 85 percent of District 153 students met or exceeded state standards compared to the statewide average of 79 percent.

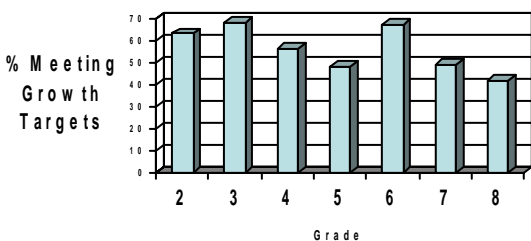
The graphs on this page show percentages of District 153

students that meet or exceed state standards in core subjects and at various grade levels.

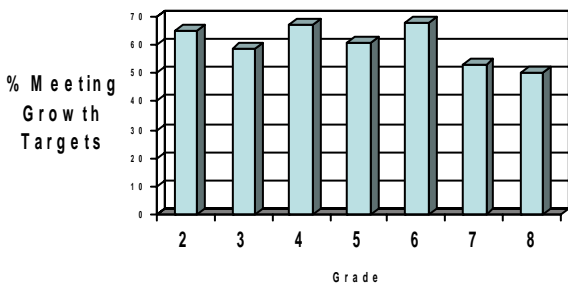
Copies of the district and school report cards are available in the district and school offices. After Oct. 31st, they will be available online at www.isbe.net or on the district website, www.hsd153.org.



Student Growth (Math)



Student Growth (Reading)



Homewood School District 153

Dr. Dale Mitchell, Superintendent
Jacqui Parisi, Business Manager
Gail Huizinga, Coordinator for Teaching, Learning
and Accountability
Sue Mecozzi, Director of Student Support
Services
Eric Farmer, Network Administrator
Shelley Peck, Communications

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Thomas Brabec, Vice President
Gale Gallagher, Secretary
Jackie Griffith
Greg Lawrence
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Jim Schmidt

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Visit www.hsd153.org for news and information about the schools.

Boys' and Girls' Cross Country Teams Sweep Conference Titles

Congratulations to James Hart School's 7th- and 8th-grade, boys' and girls' cross country teams for earning their respective conference titles! The four teams produced a total of 3 conference champions and 19 all-conference runners.

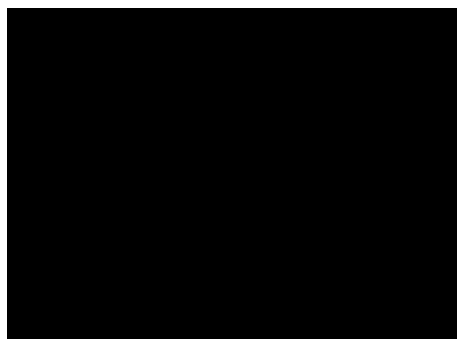
(Italics indicate all-conference runner.)

Girls' 8th-Grade Team

Leila Aliev, Amy Blumstein, Sam Donermeyer, *Lauren Gallagher*, *Virginia Garcia*, Jordan Giffney, *Trudy Graham*, Nikki Herkert, Becca Hofeld, Elena Kreucher, *Linda Kuersten*, Brianna Latiker, Morgan Lunblad, Lucy Pavisich, Trisha Reardon, Abby Schultz, Lauren Tieri, *Ellie Truffa*, Natalie Williams

Boys' 8th-Grade Team

Quinton Carey, *Charon Cross*, *German Cutz*, *Matt Dieudunne*, Michael Hurley, *Brian O'Shea*, *Neil Paterson*



Conference Cross Country Champions: (L to R) Virginia Garcia, Charon Cross, and Meghan McDonough. Garcia and Cross were undefeated during the past two seasons!

Girls' 7th-Grade Team

India Anderson, Kim Boehm, *Cortney Cross*, Clara Deck, Marlo Diorio, Taylor Fisher, Janie Gallagher, Jocelyn McDonald, *Meghan McDonough*, *Morgan Oakes*, Simone Shama, *Kaitlyn Sheryk*, Nicole Stevenson, Kassie Wallace, Kendall White, *Haley Williams*

Boys' 7th-Grade Team

Ian Bannon, Chris Colman, Steven Hagan, Tim Kuschel, *Donald Larriue*, *Noah Rinsner*, *Michael Tunstall*

Millennium School Field Day Promotes Fun and Learning



On Sept. 28, Millennium School's 5th- and 6th-graders participated in their annual "Field Day," a day of outdoor events promoting teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Students competed in such events as the "bat twirl," hula hoop, and bean bag toss relays. Above, teacher Belinda Hovan leads the 5th-grade staff in a tug-of-war contest against the 6th-grade staff.