

Caledonia Community Schools

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JERRY PHILLIPS, Superintendent ~ RANDY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Superintendent, ~ SAM WRIGHT, Finance Manager

Re: NEW MEAP CUT SCORES

Dear Parents,

Last October, our students took the MEAP tests and we are expecting the results to come back to us in January 2012.

You may have read in the newspaper, or heard on the news that the MEAP scores will be much lower this year. In past years, Caledonia students have scored in the 90's and even a few 100% scores for certain grade levels. The scores for this year will not be that high. The lower scores will happen in all districts across Michigan as we get used to the new scoring system. This is the result of the "new cut score" or passing score being drastically raised. A few examples are as follows. Students will need to score above 83% on the 5th grade Science test to pass, 72% on the 3rd grade Math test and 70% on the 7th grade Language Arts test. I am sure that these passing scores surprise you, since we all have been accustomed to scores in the lower 60's as failing scores. This is the reason our scores will not be as high as they have been in the past. In fact, your child could score a higher percentage of correct answers this year and still get a lower score than last year.

The reason given for the big change is that Michigan students need to perform better on national tests such as the ACT college entrance exam. I certainly agree that our students should and could do better, but there is a distinct reason Michigan ACT scores are slightly lower than the national average. Michigan and three other states test all eleventh graders on the ACT. The other 46 states test only eleventh graders that are going to college. This is the main reason Michigan ACT scores are slightly less than the national average.

There is no question we can all improve and I am confident our students will rise to the new challenge. I am a firm believer that given high expectations the students will measure up. Given low expectations they will perform at a level that is less than their ability.

Lets all work together, parents, teachers and administration to provide the best for our students, so they can be successful in the future.

The building principals will have the scores from the state in the near future and can answer questions relating to this years MEAP test. I can be reached at 891-8185 if you have questions about the new cut scores for the MEAP test.

Sincerely,

Jerry Phillips
Superintendent

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