

Scotia-Glenville math scores still on the rise

Results on grade 4 and 8 tests have risen steadily for three years

When it comes to math, Scotia-Glenville students have once again shown they know their way around numbers and calculations.

For the third year in a row, scores on the state's grade 4 and 8 math tests have been higher than the year before. The tests were taken in May.

"We are very pleased with the results of the state's math testing," said Joseph Kavanaugh, director of curriculum and instruction. "Our performance on these two tests has been steadily increasing for the past several years; I expect that to continue."

The results (*including students placed out of district*) show that nearly 91% of S-G students in grade 4 and 69% of students in grade 8 met or exceeded state standards. Both are improvements over the 2003 scores and are well ahead of statewide figures.

Statewide, 79.1 percent of grade 4 students and 57.7 percent of grade 8 students met or exceeded the standards.

S-G math scores also continued to climb: grade 4 students had an average of 669 out of a maximum of 800; grade 8

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Above, grade 6 students **Marissa Hulin**, left, and **Ruby Howard** take a moment out on the first day of school. Thousands of students reacquainted themselves with friends from last year, met new students and prepared for the 2004-05 school year. District enrollment was 2,938 this year, a figure that has remained steady for several years.

S-G service learning program receives \$5,000 State Farm Insurance grant to begin home safety surveys for seniors

Senior David Scotland became involved in the "Helping Hands" home safety program for seniors because he wants to solve problems.

"This is all about problem solving and correcting situations," said Scotland, who with senior Michael Topka are co-directors of the new GIVE service learning program at

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Grades 4 and 8 math results, from page 1

students scored an average of 730 out of a maximum of 830.

“Our scores look very strong this year but, of course, students who are struggling will continue to receive the extra help they need,” said Kavanaugh.

Many of the students in levels 2 and 1 (*who need help to meet the standards*) have been receiving remedial education or Academic Intervention Services based on their Terra Nova or grades 4 and 8 test results. That will continue.

Kavanaugh noted that the grade 4 and 8 tests are “check point exams” – a way to determine who needs help to make sure they will do well on the Regents exams in high school. A student must pass the Regents in order to graduate.

Among other highlights from the 2004 math test scores:

- ▶ The grade 4 math School Accountability Performance Index (SAPI) was 189 in 2001, 177 in 2002, 179 in 2003 and 190 in 2004. The grade 8 SAPI has risen from 149 in 2001 to 158 in 2003 to 164 in 2004. The SAPI is determined by adding the percentage of students in levels 2, 3 and 4 together and then adding the percentage in levels 3 and 4 again. Schools must score a SAPI of 150.

- ▶ 218 grade 4 students and 282 grade 8 students took state tests. ↵

Three years of steady progress

Average scores: gr. 4 and 8 math

These average scores include all students, both general education, those with disabilities and those placed outside the district.

School	Gr. 4 average math score (2004-2003-2002)	% in levels 3/4 (2003 %) (meet/exceed standards)
Glendaal	686-682-657	98.0% (89.1%)
Glen-Worden ...	672-654-664	98.0% (80.9%)
Lincoln	665-663-665	98.0% (86.0%)
Sacandaga	659-664-661	77.8% (75.8%)
Total elemen. ..	669-666-660	90.7% (82.5%)

The elementary scores are out of a maximum of 800; the grade 8 score is out of a maximum of 830.

Grade 8

730-724-725	68.4% (64.5%)
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Teachers, Board of Education agree to three-year contract

The Board of Education and Scotia-Glenville Teachers' Association (SGTA) have agreed to a three-year contract that raises salaries while increasing health insurance co-payments by employees.

Board members unanimously approved the pact Sept. 27; SGTA members approved it by a 187-3 vote Sept. 22.

“With the costs of health insurance skyrocketing every year, we were happy the teachers agreed to changes in the their health insurance benefits,” said Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle. “This is a good contract for our staff and for the district.”

Board of Education President Margaret Smith said she was “pleased that the contract was settled at the beginning of the school year and that it helps us to control some of the rising contract costs, especially health insurance.”

“Teachers realize that health insurance costs are rising,” said Patricia Johnson, president of the SGTA. “We were happy to help both the district and our membership contain costs while receiving compensation that allows us to remain competitive with neighboring districts.”

Salaries, depending how long an employee has taught, would rise an average 4.24 percent *before savings from health benefit changes built into the new contract*. After the health insurance changes, the average increase is 3.6 percent.

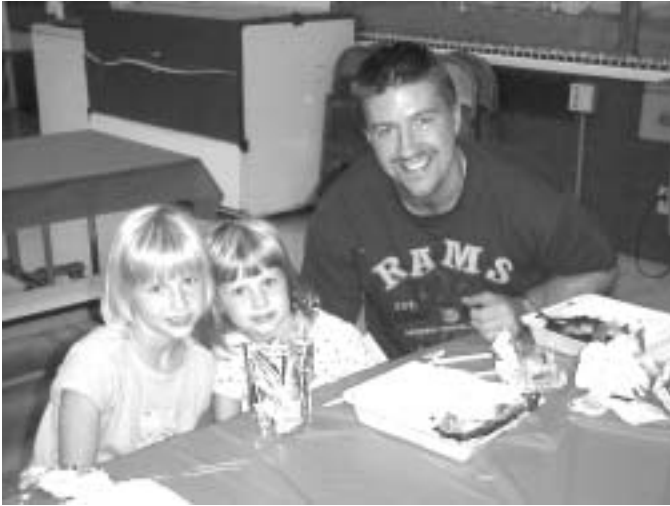
The new agreement expires June 30, 2007 and is retroactive to July 1. The previous agreement expired June 30.

Those percentage increases includes an average 2.9 percent “step” increase. Every teacher in the state receives a step increase for each year of service up to the top contract step. Above that, there are no step increases.

Health insurance premiums this year increased by an average of 12 percent, making it one of the fastest growing areas of the school district’s budget.

Effective in January, employees participating in a health maintenance organization, such as MVP or CDPHP, will pay \$20 each time they go to the doctor; they now pay \$15. As of July 1, 2005, changes in the prescription drug plan will also help control the rising cost of health benefits. ↵

Students participating and joining activities at Scotia-Glenville



Upper left, Hannah Conley, left, grade 1, and little sister **Erica** share a chicken barbecue with their dad, **Tim**, at the Sacandaga PTA School Picnic. There was dancing in the gym, plenty of chicken and a very full playground.



Center left, Students enjoyed the summer program at Glen-Worden. From left, **Nicole Harris**, **Christopher Ludovici**, **Paige Geary** and **Quintin Jones** put on a performance for family and friends at the end of the program.



Lower left, Sakeena Nazir, grade 4, takes part in the hula hoop contest at the Glen-Worden PTA's Back to School Picnic. Parents and students there dined on hamburgers and hot dogs served by staff members and parents.

Bottom right, Middle School student **Andrew Peterson**, left, works with Berne-Knox-Westerlo Middle School student **Sean O'Connell** to disassemble and rebuild a computer at Rensselaer Tech Park during the Capital Region BOCES/ Questar III Tech Valley Summer Camp. They were among 24 Capital Region grade 8 students who learned about computers, forensics, nanotechnology, robotics and other high-tech subjects at the week-long camp.



Herb Tedford is a strong #2 at the Middle School

Former semi-pro football player takes the lead on discipline

Herb Tedford has seen what happens when a child fails to make a connection to something, whether that is school or home.

During Tedford's years of working with at-risk teenagers in Colorado, three or four of his students were killed or died tragically. Another three to five were sent to prison for 25 years to life for adult crimes.

"I am not going to drop the ball...I will get to the bottom of what is going on."

Herb Tedford, assistant principal at the Middle School

"It's really hard when you work with kids for a long time and you see them making an attitude

change and trying to put in an effort but it just doesn't happen for them," said Tedford, the new full-time assistant principal at the middle school.

Nationally, Tedford says, there is a 35% success rate with at-risk teens. "That's kind of hard to swallow," he said.

A common thread

Was there a common thread that ran through all of his teenagers in Colorado?

"Many came from dysfunctional homes and broken homes," he said. "Kids from these kinds of homes already have a strike against them."

"All kids want adult approval; you (as adults) can't try to fit them in a square or round hole, you have to earn their trust and build trust with them," he said.

He plans to take a fair and level approach with discipline.

"Kids are going to make mistakes, everybody does. But if a kid needs a hug, I will give them a hug; if they need discipline, then I'll give them discipline too," he said.

All conversations with a youth in trouble will begin by listening to their side of the story, he said. "But at some

point, I will tell them that I have heard them and understand them, but that they have left me with no choice" but to discipline them.

If an issue involves weapons or drugs, there is a zero tolerance. "That is no longer a school issue; it is now a legal issue and the students will have to face the consequences," he said.

At 6 feet 4 inches and 350 pounds, Tedford tends to get noticed as he walks down a hallway. "My presence does matter; I'd be kidding you if I said it didn't," he said.



Tedford was an offensive lineman when he played semi-professional football in Colorado.

Herb Tedford

Parents and the school work together

Parents will also hear from Tedford.

"I have no problem calling mom or dad; I will usually do it with the student right in my office," he said.

If he doesn't get them at the time, he will meet with parents at any time, before or after school or in the evening. "I am not going to drop the ball...I will get to the bottom of what is going on."

He began the job July 26. His salary is \$65,000 and he replaced two part-time deans who had also split their time as teachers.

Tedford and his wife, Barbara, have two sons, Herb, 14, in grade 8 and Spencer, 10, in grade 5. 🐾

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Sister of DWI victim speaks to S-G driver ed. students

Jean Karutis shares personal memories of her brother

Joe Klementowski was a simple guy.

He worked as a custodian at Amsterdam High School. At age 47, he lived with and cared for his father. He set his alarm at 4:30 a.m. so he could read the newspaper when it arrived. He loved gadgets. He set the coffee pot to come on each morning so that he and his elderly father would have hot coffee when they woke.

Joe was also an avid concert fan and often went to shows at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. He collected any kind of music he could get his hands on.

“He was kind of a nerdy guy but he was a generous guy, a good guy who did simple work,” Klementowski’s sister, Jean Karutis, told 48 driver education students. “He was passionate about his music.”

He had row D tickets, the fourth row at SPAC, to see REM on Sept. 8, 1999. After visiting his sister and waving good-bye, Joe hopped into his 1989 Toyota Corolla and began the trip to SPAC on County Road 45 through Galway.

Killed by a two-time DWI offender

His little car was hit, head-on, by a car traveling 80 miles per hour in a 45 mile per hour zone. Joe died on the road, alone and in terrible pain.

The other car was driven by a man who had been arrested twice before for driving while intoxicated. The other driver, who broke both legs, had a blood alcohol level of .22 three hours later. A person is considered drunk with a blood alcohol level of .08.

The other driver pleaded guilty. He is set to be released from prison this November.

Karutis said a state trooper called her to come to her 76-year-old father’s house that night. She thought something had happened to her father.

“I heard my father crying...there is nothing worse than a parent losing a child,” Karutis, who stayed with

her father that night, told students. “He sobbed all night long.”

A friend of the other driver had tried *but failed* to stop the drunk driver from leaving the bar after three hours of drinking.

New drivers-to-be listened carefully

Natalie McGarvey, a senior, said the five year sentence for the other driver’s third drunken driving incident “was ridiculous...it should have been a lot longer for what he did.”

She also said it is difficult to overcome peer pressure and take car keys away from a drunk person, especially one who may be much larger and could become violent.

“There are people who just don’t think and don’t care,” said Jessica Beauchemin, a senior who was shaken by the program. She said she suspects that a lot of drunk drivers “know the consequences and just don’t care about anybody else.”

“My goal is to leave them with a couple of thoughts so they don’t get into a car and drive after drinking,” said Karutis. “If they remember anything about my brother’s story, I hope it is this: take the next step and take those keys.” ☺



Above, seniors **Hilary Turner**, left, and **Jen Gallagher** check out the new plantings in the courtyard between the science wing and A-wing at the high school. With them are Principal **Lynda Castronovo** and social studies teacher **Louis Schiavone**. The girls, along with senior Kayla Wisniewski, were featured in a series of Earth Day articles in the Daily Gazette last year. As thanks for sharing their ideas, the newspaper donated a \$100 gift certificate from Hewitt’s Garden Center to the school.

State Farm provides grant to high school GIVE program, from page 1

the high school. "If we can't solve the problem, we can point people in the right direction to get it fixed."

State Farm grant gets the program going

GIVE has received a \$5,000 first-year grant from State Farm Insurance to begin a program to conduct home safety surveys and install safety products for area senior citizens.

So far, 27 students have signed up for the program. They will be joined by adult volunteers, perhaps from the Rotary or other community service groups, to conduct the surveys.

While Helping Hands is still being developed, students are already thinking about how to make homes safer.

"Throw rugs, for example, can be slippery and a senior could get hurt stepping on one in the middle of the night," Scotland said. "We may suggest that they be held down with double-sided tape."

He also mentioned fire extinguishers and smoke detectors with 10-year batteries so residents don't have to change them as often.

Starting with Key Calls

The program will begin by offering the program to seniors now involved with Key Calls. Key Calls is a program in which high school GIVE students call

Know somebody who was an outstanding athlete or coach?

Nomination forms for the Athletic Hall of Fame are available at the athletic office, 382-1237.



They are due back Jan. 29. In order to be inducted, a graduate must have been out of school for at least four years.



Greg McKenna, a specialty underwriter with State Farm, goes over the fine points of using and checking a fire extinguisher. The insurance company provided a \$5,000 grant to the high school GIVE service learning program. S-G was among just six schools in the United States to receive the grant. The money will be used to begin a home safety program for area seniors.

seniors at least once a day to check on them. After that, it will be offered to others. Any senior citizen interested may call the GIVE office at 386-4357 and ask for Bruce or Mollie Kohout.

"This is a great opportunity for our students to make a difference in the lives of the elderly," said Bruce Kohout, who coordinates GIVE.

"The grant will enable us to purchase and install much needed safety materials such as smoke alarms, grab bars and stair treads. These improvements will go a long way towards helping senior citizens stay in their own homes."

The program will be implemented over three years.

Part of the goal of the program, he said, it to spark similar service learning programs in other school districts. GIVE is already connected with similar programs in Albany and Schenectady.

"Scotia-Glenville High School is one of six schools selected from hundreds who applied to receive the grant," said Kristin Halligan, Education Excellence Coordinator, Ballston Spa Operations Center for State Farm Insurance Companies. 🍷

S-G Recognitions

A small sampling of the many wonderful things happening among the students and staff in your school district.



These students were named to the final quarter Students of the Quarter at the High School for 2003-04:

GOAL.....	Thomas Walsh	2007
Art	Adam Zak	2007
Business Education	Tammy Lilac.....	2005
English.....	Stephanie Zielaskowski	2006
Family and		
Consumer Sciences .	Anna Smith	2007
Foreign languages .	Peter Muller	2006
Health	Maggie Busman	2006
Mathematics	Annie Marsh.....	2007
Music	Matt Vicalvi	2005
Physical Education.	Jeff Dehimer	2005
Science	Annie Marsh.....	2007
Social Studies	Michael Rausch	2004
Technology	Ian Germain	2005
Vocational		
Technology	Chris Rowe	2004



63 students in grades 4 and 5 at the Sacandaga Elementary School participated in the National Football Leagues's Punt, Pass & Kick Contest. The competition was held during the after-school sports program under the direction of Physical Education teachers **Sue Gracz** and **Barb Wurz**.

First Place winners advanced to the sectional competition in Hudson Falls. **Alexis Yagielski** placed fourth and **Kayla Riccio** and **Andrew Bailey** placed fifth.

Girls, ages 8-9

- 1st Place – Kayla Riccio
- 2nd - Christina Stahl
- 3rd – Victoria Savoie

Boys, ages 8-9

- 1st Place – Andrew Bailey
- 2nd - Ben Connolly
- 3rd – Michael Rice

Girls, ages 10-11

- 1st Place - Alexis Yagielski
- 2nd - Gabbie Elliot
- 3rd – Kim Cullen

Boys, ages 10-11

- 1st Place - Evan Woodworth
- 2nd – Chris Omicinski
- 3rd – Mitchell Near

Peter Sheridan, academic head for social studies, and social studies teacher Louis Schiavone joined teachers from Amsterdam, Ballston Spa and Schenectady to present the Points of View project: “Theodore Roosevelt, The First Modern President” at the 66th Annual New York State Council for the Social Studies/NYS Social Studies Supervisory Association Conference in Rochester.

Sheridan and Schiavone were also recognized as master teachers and honored with a “Special Recognition Award” at Time Warner Cable’s 15th Annual National Teacher Awards held in Washington, D.C. in June.



Barbara Wurz, physical education teacher at Sacandaga, was named Professional of the Year by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The award will be presented Nov. 5 at the NYS AHPERD annual conference.



Joanne Reynolds, nurse at Glen-Worden, was named as a director to the New York State Association of School Nurses. She will represent Zone 7, which includes much of the Capital Region.



Sacandaga Elementary School has won an Appleby Award from MVP insurance to put up jogging trail signs and buy recess supplies. The grant, submitted by physical education teacher **Barbara Wurz**, was for \$1,200 and will be used to purchase equipment like footballs, basketballs, hula hoops, volleyballs and other recess equipment as well as signs to mark a half-mile jogging trail at the playground.



Jessica Robinson, a junior at the high school, was to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Defense, Intelligence and Diplomacy in Washington, DC., in late October. The six day program focuses on national defense issues and was expected to be attended by 400 other students from across the US. 🇺🇸

Board of Education adopts goals for 2004-05

The Board of Education has adopted a series of ambitious goals that include considering a future building improvement project, strengthening academic enrichment and reviewing proposals from a committee that may reconfigure the elementary schools.

"This is going to be a very busy year," said Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle. "The Board of Education will have a lot on its plate."

The Facilities Advisory Committee is expected to issue a report this fall detailing possible building improvements.

The Academic Enrichment Program was retooled this year to include a full day of enrichment for students in grade 5. A companion program, Young Scholars, offers enrichment to students in grade 4 one day a week.

The K-5 Instructional Organizational Committee began meeting in June. The group is studying ways to make sure K-5 education is as efficient and effective as possible.

That could include redistricting elementary zones to make class sizes uniform between the four schools, closing a school or "reconfiguring" schools to change the grades that are in each building. The buildings are now designed as a grades Kindergarten to 5 neighborhood school setup.

For example, students may be placed in grade-level centers. Under that scenario, all students in grades K and 1 may attend one school, all students in grades 2 and 3 may attend another and all students in grades 4 and 5 may attend a third school.

See ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org for more on the goals. ☺

Scotia-Glenville's Calendar of Events

- ▶ **K-5 parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for** Tuesday, November 2; Wednesday, November 10; Friday, November 19; Monday, November 22
HALF DAYS OF SCHOOL FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
- ▶ **Monday, Nov. 8**
Regular Board of Ed. meeting
- ▶ **Thursday, Nov. 11**
Veteran's Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- ▶ **Monday, Nov. 22**
Special Board of Ed. meeting
- ▶ **Thurs.-Fri., Nov. 25-26**
Thanksgiving Day recess - **NO SCHOOL**
- ▶ **Monday, Dec. 13**
Regular Board of Ed. meeting
- ▶ **Fri.-Fri., Dec. 24-31**
Christmas/New Year's recess - **NO SCHOOL**
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 3**
Classes resume
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 10**
Regular Board of Ed. meeting
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 17**
Martin Luther King Jr. Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 18**
Superintendent's Conference Day - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 24**
Special Board of Ed. meeting, Lincoln
- ▶ **Thursday, Jan. 27**
Report Card preparation - **HALF DAY OF SCHOOL, K-5**
- ▶ **Friday, Jan. 28**
EARLY DISMISSAL, gr. 6-12
- ▶ **Monday, Feb. 14**
Regular Board of Ed. meeting, Glen-Worden

All Board of Education meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held at the District Office unless otherwise noted. The District Office is located at the end of Lark Street in the village of Scotia. Please call 382-1215 if you have any questions about time or locations.

Check us out on the Web at:
ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org

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