

S-G math scores meet standards

Grade 8 math performance index continues upward trend

Students in grades 4 and 8 continue to meet the state standards in math.

“We are pleased that our scores meet the standards but we know there is room for improvement,” noted Joseph Kavanaugh, director of curriculum and instruction.

“We still have students who are not meeting the standards; that continues to be our challenge.”

For the tests taken in June, 82% of grade 4 students and 64% of grade 8 students scored in levels 3 and 4, considered meeting or exceeding the standards. Kavanaugh said the

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High School students, from left, **Julie Palmer, Kevin Guzewich, Maggie Smith, Sarah Dillon, Amanda Vottis, Liz Cooper, Todd Stevens, Kristi DiDonna and Catherine Kramer** show off their tee-shirts marking their trip to Saarlouis, Germany, last February. The students shared their enthusiasm about the trip and the knowledge they could not have learned from textbooks.

Trips to Germany, France and Spain help students learn beyond their classrooms

Learning a language, or anything for that matter, is more difficult unless you can practice it. Repetition and routine help us to make connections.

When learning a language, being able to immerse oneself into a culture strengthens our ability to comprehend.

“They are able to make connections to what they do in the classroom,” Connie Cunningham, chair of the foreign language department, said about the overseas study programs available to S-G students. “Going overseas is an eye-opening experience for students every year.”

This year, more than 1,100 S-G students in grades 7-12 are enrolled in Spanish (627 students), French (299 students) or German (158 students).

“They are able to make connections to what they do in the classroom...they become ambassadors for the United States.”

Connie Cunningham, chair, foreign language department

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Overseas trips enhance learning, from page 1

Four ways to travel to Europe

Four overseas trips are available to third- and fourth-year language students. Because they last more than a vacation week, they must be approved by the Board of Education:

- ▶ The district's first exchange program began in 1990 with the Robert Schuman High School, a Saarlouis, Germany, school. German students visit S-G and stay with host families; in return, S-G students travel to Saarlouis and stay with German host families. Estimated cost: \$900, before fund-raising.
- ▶ A trip to Avila, Spain, begins this year. Eight students and chaperones will study at a Spanish school Feb. 6 to 20. Students will stay with families. Spanish students do not travel to S-G as part of an exchange program. Estimated cost: \$1,800, before fund-raising.
- ▶ A joint exchange program has been created by the foreign language and social studies departments to focus on German history and culture. As part of this exchange, nine German students and two teachers are visiting S-G until Nov. 27 and staying here with host families. Feb. 6 to 20, nine S-G students and chaperones will travel to Ludwig High School in Saarbrücken, Germany. Estimated cost: \$1,000, before fund-raising.
- ▶ Trips to France began in 1999. For 10 days, S-G students stay with French families and travel. Students also have an opportunity to host French students in July as part of the same program. Estimated cost: \$1,500

Student ambassadors

Cunningham said S-G students traveling overseas are important to US relations with the world.

"They become ambassadors for the United States," Cunningham said, noting that even nations like France and Germany that disagreed with the Bush administration's stance in Iraq welcomed the students earlier this year. ✪

S-G students reflect on their adventures and memories of Saarlouis, Germany

Last February, as the US marched to war in Iraq, 11 Scotia-Glenville students hopped on a plane for Saarlouis, Germany.

They returned home with a unique, teenage view.

"It was a different experience to go to another country and to *have to* talk in German," said Amanda Vottis.

"We tried buying a pair of shoes without speaking any English...that was an adventure!" she added.

Todd Stevens said he was struck by how different the culture was in Germany.

He said the school day is shorter but more demanding because it is more college-like. "The work day for the parents in my family was very short as well," he said.

"They don't have curfews," said Sarah Dillon, admiring the freedom. "Teenagers just go off on their own; we would just get on a bus and go shopping for hours."

Kevin Guzewich said that, despite policy differences about Iraq between the US and Germany, Germans "had a generally acceptable view of Americans and treated us well."

Maggie Smith said the students felt welcome. "The Germans were as interested in our culture as we are in theirs," she said. "It was

George Bush they didn't like, not all Americans."

Liz Cooper has made a lasting friendship with her exchange student.

"She came back this summer for two weeks and I hope to go back and visit her and her family again," she said.

The students made other observations of Germany:

- ▶ Teachers in German schools lectured exclusively and extra help was unavailable. Parents hired tutors to help their children.

- ▶ Theaters offered sugar-coated popcorn and showed US films. Julie Palmer noted smoking was allowed in theaters.

- ▶ Public transportation was available all the time.

- ▶ Text messaging on cellular phones was used extensively. "They could type it so fast," said Amanda Vottis.

- ▶ Divorce was not obvious. Julie Palmer said her host student was from a divorced home, but that was the only one she and the others knew about. ✪

At Scotia-Glenville, learning happens by seeing, hearing and doing



Upper left, Glendaal grade 4 students, from left, **Lauren Jones**, **Silvana Giovannone** and **Julie Myers** cheer on student **Nick Zeglen** as he tries to toss a bean bag to Iceland while standing in the Bering Strait. They are all students in **Lynn Stallmer's** class. The nearly 300 students at Glendaal participated in a "hands-on" geography program by Gymnasium Geography Inc. of Bangor, PA. Classes stood around a large map and participated in activities that required them to know geography. The day-long event was sponsored by the Glendaal PTA.

Upper Center left, senior **Elizabeth Rowell** answers questions from her Schalmont teacher during a distance learning class at the high school. At left is **Bruce Matthews**, director of the Southwest Virginia Education and Training Network. He and other Virginia educators came to Scotia-Glenville to study the distance learning lab and learn about the unique BOCES technology network that links several Capital Region schools.



Lower left, "Theodore Roosevelt," played by **James Foote**, gives the famous TR wave as he prepares to board the C-SPAN bus that brought him to the high school. Students from **Lou Schiavone's**, **Joan White-Smith's** and **Eric DeCarlo's** social studies classes asked Foote questions about TR and toured the C-SPAN bus filled with memorabilia. His visit coincided with the 100th anniversary of his successful run for the presidency in 1904. Students also heard C-Span technicians and specialists discuss the networks' role in the 2004 presidential campaign.

Below, from left, grade 7 students **Christina Galvin**, **Jessica Catalfamo** and **Brenden Martin**, students in **Janet Schiavone's** Home and Careers class, watch as **Kent Busman** begins his talk about alternative methods of acquiring food by handing out McDonald's french fries. He talked about the farmers, producers and manufacturers involved with making the fries. He told the students that there are many ways to get food, from growing it oneself and bartering to purchasing from farmer's markets and cooperatives. "You need to think about what's behind the food you buy and what you value," said Busman. He is a minister with



the Reformed Church of America and operates Camp Fowler in Speculator. He spoke to students in **Elaine McCain's** and **Schiavone's** classes.

Grade 8 student on a "Teddy Bear Mission" while paying tribute to her former Sacandaga teacher

Rachael Bishop, a grade 8 student, has been on a "Teddy Bear Mission" to give something back to a hospital that helped one of her former teachers.

She collected more than 15 teddy bears by saving her birthday and allowance money. She also asked her friends during the past two years to bring ONLY teddy bears when they came to her birthday parties.

After collecting all the bears, she donated them to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City this past winter.

Alison Cardinell, her math teacher, delivered the bears to the pediatrics floor at the hospital. Cardinell was there to visit her mother, Joanne Dayton. Mrs. Dayton was Rachel's grade 4 teacher at Sacandaga and was diagnosed with leukemia last fall.

"We both feel very fortunate to have had Rachael as a student," said Cardinell. "She is an inspiration to all of us. She knows the true meaning and satisfaction of giving. We are all very touched by Rachael's thoughtfulness." ❖



Grade 8 student **Rachael Bishop** surrounded by some of the teddy bears she donated to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City this past winter. She collected the bears as a tribute to her former teacher, Joanne Dayton, who was at the hospital for treatment.

Administrators agree to three-year pact

The 13 administrators at Scotia-Glenville have agreed to a contract that includes pay raises, higher life insurance coverage and a changes in professional development. The contract runs July 1, 2003 to June 20, 2006.

The pact, approved by the Board of Education Oct. 20, calls for an increase in the salary pool of 2.825% this year and 2.9% for each of the next two years. Half of the negotiated salary increase is allocated uniformly and the other half is distributed based on merit.

"This is a good contract for the district as it faces a difficult few years ahead," said Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle.

The bargaining unit includes six principals, assistant high school principal and dean of students, two academic heads and directors of athletics/physical education, fine arts and pupil personnel services .

"This is a good contract for the district as it faces a difficult few years ahead."

*Superintendent
Michael J. Marcelle*

"We are proud of the positive relationships that exist with the staff, students and parents as well as with the superintendent and Board of Education," said Ann Peluso, Glendaal principal and a member of the negotiating team. "These relationships have been built and are sustained on behalf of all of our children."

High School Principal Lynda Castronovo and Academic Head of Social Studies Peter Sheridan also negotiated.

Here are other highlights of the package:

- Life insurance coverage for each administrator will increase from \$100,000 to \$200,000;
- Each administrator will be allocated \$350 for professional development in the second and third year. This year, administrators will waive the professional development payments for a \$3,900 savings to the district;
- An equity pool will be set up. The pool would allow administrators who feel their positions deserve higher pay based on their responsibilities to appeal to a committee of five (*superintendent, business administrator, curriculum director and two administrators*). Increases for any administrator's salary are capped at 2% above the negotiated amount. ❖

Local 766, district sign three-year contract

The 84 custodians, cleaners, bus drivers and maintenance employees in the Local 766 labor union have signed a new contract with the district.

The Board of Education approved the contract Oct. 6.

"This is an agreement that helps us contain spiraling costs while being fair to our hard-working employees," said Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle.

In the face of higher costs, he noted that this contract should limit future cuts. The Board of Education cut 8.5 cleaner positions this year.

"In these difficult economic times, this is a good contract," said James Morrow, president of Local 766. "We were able to get a small increase in pay in exchange for a higher co-pay for health insurance."

The provisions of the three-year pact, which runs from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2006, includes:

- Pay raises of 2.25% this year, 2.5% in 2004-05 and 2.5% in 2005-06;
- Longevity pay for employees with 20+ years of service increased by five cents per hour to 45¢ per hour;
- An increase in co-payments for HMO health insurance plans to \$20 per visit from last year's \$15 co-pay. Employees receiving health insurance for at least a year may opt out of the plan and receive an annual payment in lieu of the coverage;
- Drivers scheduled for a special bus trip of at least six hours are entitled to a 15 minute meal break. ♣



Braving poor weather, these members of Scotia-Glenville's varsity and junior varsity field hockey teams, and their families, joined thousands of others in the "Race for the Cure" 5K run for Breast Cancer research on Oct. 4 in Albany.

From left to right, back row, are: Jill Busman, Stephanie Zielakowski, Sue Davenport and Maggie Busman.

From left to right, front row are: Jackie Feurer, Amelia Camelo, Anna Wegener, Linda Kapusta, Abbey Madej, Maggie Smith, Amanda Vottis and Terry Smith.

Scotia-Glenville varsity, JV field hockey players participate in "Race for the Cure" for breast cancer

Several members of Scotia-Glenville's JV and Varsity Field Hockey team, along with family and friends, came out early on a Saturday morning to join in the "Race for the Cure" 5K for Breast Cancer on Oct. 4 in Albany.

Everyone finished tired, cold, wet and especially happy, said Sue Davenport, coach of Scotia-Glenville's varsity field hockey team.

"This was a great experience for our team to join schools such as Glens Falls, So. Glens Falls, Bethlehem and Shenedehowa, to name a few, to come together for such a great cause," she said. "We look forward to joining together for next year's race."

The Scotia-Glenville team joined 145 other runners under the team name "Capital District Field Hockey." Capital District Field Hockey has been one of the largest teams in the area. Davenport noted that this was the largest in three years.

Capital District Field Hockey's team captain, Kat Cunningham, varsity coach for Bethlehem Central Schools, organized the team's efforts. ♣

Check us out at ScotiaGlenvilleSchools.org

All S-G schools meet state and federal standards, from page 1

district's goal is for an increasing number of students to succeed on the Regents.

"That's why these (*grades 4 and 8 state tests*) are called check-point exams," he said. "They are a way for us to follow our students' progress toward high school and the Regents exams."

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.

Kavanaugh made a presentation to the Board of Education in November. He also mentioned the following items:

- ▶ The four elementary schools and middle school met state and federal testing standards in ELA and math;
- ▶ The grade 8 School Accountability Performance Index (SAPI) has risen from 149 in 2001 to 158 in 2003. The grade 4 math SAPI declined from 189 in 2001 and to 177 in 2002 but rose to 179 in 2003. Schools must score 150;
- ▶ 95% of students scored in levels 3 or 4 on the grade 5 social studies test; 65% scored in levels 3 and 4 on the grade 8 social studies test;
- ▶ 88% of students were above the State Designated Level (SDL) on the written portion of the grade 4 science test; 94% met the SDL in grade 8. ✦

Average scores: gr. 4 and 8 math

These average scores include all students, both general education and those with disabilities.

The elementary schools' average score fell within level 3 (645-691), meaning students "demonstrate understanding" of the state standards.

School	Gr. 4 math score (2002 in parenthesis)	Percent in levels 3/4 (meet/exceed standards)
Glendaal	682 (657)	89.1%
Glen-Worden	654 (664)	80.9%
Lincoln	663 (665)	86.0%
Sacandaga	664 (661)	75.8%
Total elem.	666 (660)	82.5%
<i>The elementary scores are out of a maximum of 800; the grade 8 score is out of a maximum of 830.</i>		
Grade 8	724 (725)	64.5%



Number 75 on the Scotia-Glenville modified football teams holds her own. *Stephanie Eddy*, a grade 7 student, was the first girl to play on an S-G football team and became captain.

Gr. 7 student Stephanie Eddy shook up S-G's modified football team

Watching from the sidelines, #75 on the Scotia-Glenville modified football team played an excellent game. The grade 7 student darted in and out, defending the ball and the team.

At 5 feet, 6 inches and 160 pounds, Stephanie Eddy did not get pushed around on the field by anybody.

"I really like it," said Stephanie, who was also team captain. "At the beginning, (the bumps and bruises from practices) hurt a little bit, but I got used to it."

She credited her parents, Deborah and Steven, brother Howie (who played on the junior varsity football team) and sister Nicole, a freshman, with encouraging her.

"And all my friends thought it was pretty cool that I was playing," she said with a grin.

Rick Warren, modified head coach, said a lot of girls in the past have shown up for football interest meeting, but none have followed through to become a team member.

Stephanie's teammates enjoyed having her on the team.

"I think it's great that a girl can play," said Dan Stevens, a grade 7 student on the team. "She's our starting offense and she really is great." ✦

S-G Recognitions



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



Nominations for the 2004 Athletic Hall of Fame are due to Thomas Bried, director of athletics and physical education, by Jan. 30, 2004. Nomination forms are available by calling the athletics office, 382-1237.



Janice Rice, who teaches music at Lincoln, was recently recognized as a Channel 10 Educator of the Week.



Sixty three girls and boys in grades 4 and 5 participated in the NFL Punt, Pass & Kick Contest held at the Sacandaga School. The competition was held during the after-school sports program under the direction of physical education teachers **Sue Gracz** and **Barbara Wurz**.

Four students earned medals at the sectional Punt, Pass & Kick Contest sponsored by the NFL.

Grade 4 students **Alexis Yagielski** and **Nick Leffler** placed second for their division. Grade 5 students **Olivia Dutelle** placed third in the competition for the girls, and **Tyler Sutherland** placed second for the boys.

They had placed first during the annual competition at Sacandaga. Here are the rankings from the Sacandaga competition:

Grade 4 Girls

1st Place: **Alexis Yagielski**; 2nd place: **Kayla Riccio**; and 3rd place: **Julie Rechnitzer**

Grade 4 Boys

1st Place: **Nick Leffler**; 2nd place: **Chris Omicinski**; and 3rd place: **Troy Vassari**

Grade 5 Girls

1st Place: **Olivia Dutelle**; 2nd place: **Videlia Savoie**; and 3rd place: **Dawn Davis**;

Grade 5 Boys

1st Place: **Tyler Sutherland**; 2nd place: **Josh Johnson**; and 3rd place: **Joseph Marcello**



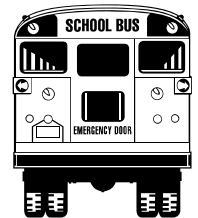
Michael Rausch, a senior at the high school, has been named to the National Society of High School Scholars. In addition, he has been in the Who's Who Among American High School Students for the past three years, as well as The National Honor Roll for two years. He is a member of the National Honor Society and participated in the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. He was also a past People to People Student Ambassador.



Andrew Smith, a grade 2 student in Sandra Belfance's class at Glen-Worden, ranked first during the recent statewide BMX (Bicycle Moto Cross) competition. He has been racing at the BMX Tri City track in Rotterdam since he was 7 years old this past spring. To qualify for the state competition, Andrew attended qualifiers in Binghamton (*he placed first*), in Bennington, VT (*he placed second*) and in New Paltz (*he placed second*). He then placed first at the state championships (now competing against 8 year olds after he turned 8 in August). He's dedicated: a sticker on his helmet says "Born to BMX."



The district has received a \$41,100 grant through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to outfit 20 district buses with diesel oxidation catalyst technology. The technology will decrease emissions in those diesel buses ahead of a deadline to lower bus emissions statewide. Transportation Director **David Van Schaick** applied for the grant.



When completing your 2003 NYS income tax return, please remember that S-G is #576. Your accuracy ensures that S-G receives its fair share of state aid.

Board of Education adopts 2003-04 tax rate; kept its promise to the community

The Board of Education in August adopted a 2003-04 tax rate of \$26.14 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The 8.88% increase matched projections made by the district at the time of the budget vote June 3.

The budget was approved with a vote of 2,127-1,680.

For the typical home with an assessment of \$100,000, school taxes will increase by \$213 per year or \$17.75 per month *before* savings from the state's STAR program. Typical savings amount to more than \$700 per year for the basic STAR recipient and more than \$1,150 for the enhanced STAR recipient.

The \$26.14 rate is for the Scotia and Glenville areas of the district, where about 99% of S-G homeowners live. Other new tax rates in the district are: \$181.54 per \$1,000 assessed value for the town of Amsterdam and \$23.95 per \$1,000 assessed value for the town of Charlton.

"Once again, we are grateful to the members of the community who supported the budget during a very difficult process," said Superintendent Michael J. Marcelle. "We did our best to deliver on the promises made to the community at that time."

After slicing \$1 million from proposed expenditures and facing a state aid cut of more than \$400,000 (even after restorations by the state Legislature), the board approved a \$35.42 million budget for 2003-04. ♪

Scotia-Glenville's Calendar of Events

- ▶ **Monday, November 24**
HALF DAY - gr. K-5 -
Parent/Teacher conferences
- ▶ **Monday, November 24**
Special Board of Ed.
meeting, District Office
- ▶ **Thursday and Friday,
November 27 and 28**
Thanksgiving recess -
NO SCHOOL
- ▶ **Monday, Dec. 8**
Regular Board of Ed.
meeting, District Office
- ▶ **Monday, Dec. 22 to Friday,
Jan. 2**
Christmas/New Year's recess
- NO SCHOOL
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 12**
Regular Board of Ed.
meeting, District Office
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 19**
Martin Luther King Jr.
holiday - NO SCHOOL
- ▶ **Friday, Jan. 23**
HALF DAY - gr. K-5 -
Report Card preparation
- ▶ **Monday, Jan. 26**
Special Board of Ed.
meeting, Lincoln School
- ▶ **Thursday, Jan. 29**
HALF DAY - gr. 6-12
- ▶ **Friday, Jan. 30**
Superintendent's Conference
Day - NO SCHOOL for
STUDENTS
- ▶ **Monday, Feb. 9**
Regular Board of Ed.
meeting, District Office
- ▶ **Monday, Feb. 16 to Friday,
Feb. 20**
President's Day and Winter
recess - NO SCHOOL
- ▶ **Monday, Feb. 23**
Special Board of Ed.
meeting, Glen-Worden
- ▶ **Monday, March 1, 8, 15,
22 and 29 and April 5**
Regular Board of Ed.
meeting, Middle School
2004-05 Budget Review

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.

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Scotia-Glenville

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