

Specific grade performance noted in Perquimans annual testing results

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

Following Thursday's release of test scores for students in Perquimans County who participated in the statewide annual testing, the following results are presented.

The grade equivalent scores for the average first grade student in Perquimans County were 1.9 in reading and 2.5 in mathematics. In contrast, the average first grade student in the state performed 1.7 in reading and 2.1 in mathematics. The national figure is 1.7 for both areas. While officials warn against drawing conclusions from grade equivalency scores, first graders in Perquimans did better than first graders in both the state and nation.

And, the average student in the first grade in Perquimans scored higher than 65 percent of the first grade students in the nation in reading and higher than 89 percent of the students in mathematics. This percentile rank, according to school officials, is a better and more accurate comparison. If so, Perquimans first graders did extremely well in reading and excellent in mathematics.

The grade equivalent scores for the average second grade student in Perquimans were 2.6 in reading and 2.6 in mathematics. In contrast, the average second grade student in the state performed 2.8 in reading and 3.2 in math. The 2.7 figure is the average for students in the nation.

Interpreted in percentile terms, the average student in the second grade in Perquimans scored higher than 45 percent of the second grade students in the nation in reading, and higher than 46 percent of the students in mathematics.

The grade equivalent scores for the average third grade student in Perquimans were 3.4 in reading, 3.6 in mathematics, 3.6 in language, 3.9 in spelling and 3.5 on the total test. In contrast, the average student in the state performed 3.5 in reading, 3.6 in mathematics, 3.6 in language, 3.8 in spelling, and

3.5 on the total test. The average grade equivalent for students in the nation is 3.7.

In percentile terms, the average student in the third grade in Perquimans scored higher than 41 percent of the third grade students in the nation in reading, higher than 44 percent of the students in mathematics, higher than 46 percent of the students in language, higher than 57 percent in spelling, and 43 percent on the total test.

The grade equivalent scores for the average sixth grade student in Perquimans were: 5.8 in reading, 5.7 in mathematics, 5.6 in language, 8.5 in spelling, and 5.8 on the total test. The national average at this grade level for all three tests were 6.7, whereas the average student in the state scored 6.3 in reading, 6.5 in mathematics, 6.6 in language, 7.1 in spelling, and 6.4 on the total test. Perquimans sixth graders scored lower using the grade equivalency figure than students in the state in all areas except spelling. They were also lower in all areas, except spelling, when compared to students in the nation.

In comparison to sixth grade students in the nation and state, the average sixth grade student in Perquimans scored higher than 37 percent in the nation in reading, higher than 31 percent in the nation in mathematics, higher than 39 percent in the nation in language, higher than 35 percent in the nation on the total test. However, 50 percent is considered average.

The grade equivalent scores for the average ninth grade student in Perquimans County were 7.9 in reading, 7.9 for mathematics, 7.4 for language, and 7.8 for total test. The national grade equivalent for students in all areas is 9.7. In contrast, state grade equivalent averages on the same tests were 9.0 in reading, 9.0 in

mathematics, 9.3 in language, and 9.0 on the total test. While educators urge employing caution when looking at grade equivalencies, the results show Perquimans ninth graders scored at the seventh grade level in all areas while students in the state and nation scored ninth grade level in all areas. Perquimans also had the lowest ninth grade performance in seven Albemarle area counties. Some other ninth graders in the Albemarle also fell below the state and national averages, but overall they were at eighth and ninth grade levels. Only one other county showed a seventh grade performance level for ninth graders and that was in the area of language only.

Interpreted in percentile terms, the average student in ninth grade in Perquimans scored higher than 30 percent of the ninth graders in the nation in reading, higher than 25 percent in mathematics, higher than 30 percent in language, and higher than 27 percent on the total test. Again, 50 percent is considered average.

Concerning the low performance of Perquimans ninth graders, Superintendent Harrell said several factors might cause such results and said local educators are aware of the problem and the need for improvement. He said, "I think the problem is not a ninth grade problem totally. I think the problem begins much lower than that." He explained that middle years for students, a transition period from elementary grades to the high school setting, have traditionally been frustrating and a problem area. He cited a change in teaching methods at the higher grades as one area which differs in comparing education at the lower and higher grades. Harrell added, "In all honesty, there haven't been a lot of programs throughout the

country that have been very successful with that middle group."

In addition to grade equivalent and percentile rank comparisons, the Perquimans County scores also show comparisons in stanine terms. Superintendent Harrell said, "We look at that (stanine) as a means of determining how well students performed."

The Perquimans County School System was the only one in the Albemarle to provide these stanine comparisons. This information compares students in Perquimans County to those throughout North Carolina.

The key for stanine comparisons is: students scoring in stanines 1, 2, and 3 are considered below average; stanines 4, 5, and 6, average; and stanines 7, 8 and 9, above average.

Looking at the Perquimans County test information in general shows all students in all grades performed at least at the average level since no stanine comparison falls below the fourth stanine. And first grade students in Perquimans County hit a seventh stanine in mathematics meaning above average while the state stanine figure is six. First graders in Perquimans County also did better in reading than the state figures show since they fell in the sixth stanine, and statewide students fell in the fifth stanine.

In other stanine comparisons, third grade students in Perquimans ranked in the fifth stanine in all areas tested. Students across the state in the same grade also fell in the fifth stanine in all areas.

But, Perquimans sixth graders were in the fourth stanine, still considered average, for reading, math, language and total test, while students in the state were in the fifth stanine in all these areas, also considered average. Sixth graders in Per-

quimans County were in the sixth stanine in spelling while sixth graders in the state performed at the fifth stanine level.

Perquimans ninth graders also scored in the fourth stanine in the areas of reading, math, language, and total test while ninth graders in the state were in the fifth stanine in all these areas. Ninth graders in Perquimans equaled the state with a fifth stanine in spelling. Again, stanine scores of 4, 5 and 6 are considered average.

Throughout the Thursday press conference where the Perquimans scores and those of students in the Albemarle were released, educators stressed the fact that the annual testing results provide valuable information. Results from the tests will be used to identify students' learning strengths and weaknesses, to improve students' academic performances, to inform parents and the general public of the progress of their children and the educational programs, and to plan and improve educational programs.

Educators also pointed out that these figures represent the first results from the state's annual testing program. And, as Perquimans Superintendent Harrell put it, "This is a baseline. This is a point of departure."

RETURN FROM ALA.

Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Dillon have returned home from Florida. While there, they visited relatives and friends, and various points of interest.

PERK UP

Add some excitement to a roast or a meat stew by cooking with an onion that has been stuck with three whole cloves.



DONATES PAINTING TO TOWN — Hertford Mayor Bill Cox is shown from artist, Mrs. Lillian Elliott. (Staff photo by Paige Eure)

Former resident gives original painting

Mrs. Lillian Elliott, a resident of Cape Colony Rest Haven in Edenton, and a former resident of Dobbs Street, Hertford, recently presented a painting depicting a causeway scene to the Town of Hertford.

The painting was done in June of 1965 by Mrs. Elliott and won third prize in an Elizabeth City Art Show.

At that same show, Mrs. Mary Brinn, also of Hertford, won second place. Mrs. Elliott later sat in on an art class that Mrs. Brinn was teaching at the time at Hertford Grammar School. She liked what she saw, started painting, and was encouraged in her efforts by Dr. Brinn, the art instructor's husband.

Mrs. Elliott first moved to Hertford in 1920 as a bride and found the area to readily lend itself to canvas inspiration. She has sold several of her paintings.

The painting was "gratefully accepted" at the Monday night meeting

of the Hertford Town Council, and Mayor Bill Cox expressed the town's appreciation for the gift. It is on display at the Town Office.



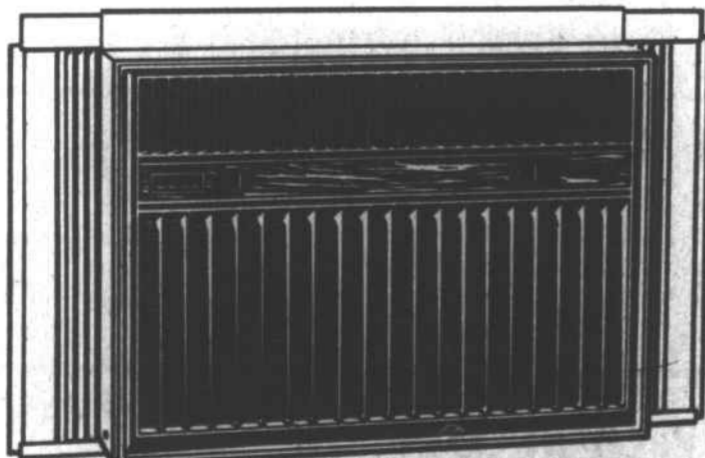
PORTRAIT OF HERTFORD FAMILY WINS AWARD

The Virginia Professional Photographers held their annual convention at the Stouffler National Center in Arlington, Va. recently. The highlight of the gathering was print judging. Chandler's Studio of Suffolk, Va. was awarded a red ribbon for their portrait of the Charles Banks family of Rt. 3, Hertford. More than 400 prints were entered in the competition coming from Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, and Canada. The portrait of the Banks family was made during a day of portrait photography sponsored by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad. Above, Mrs. Banks and her three daughters admire the award-winning print.

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