

July 9, 2009

## Newton County School System Announces School Level CRCT Results

Newton County School System has received school level results on the 2009 Criterion Referenced Competency Tests for the district's elementary and middle schools. The CRCT is designed to measure how well students acquire the skills and knowledge described in the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) and the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC).

The CRCT assessments yield information on academic achievement at the student, class, school, system, and state levels. This information is used to diagnose individual student strengths and weaknesses as related to the instruction of the GPS/QCC, and to gauge the quality of education in the county and throughout Georgia. For students in third, fifth, and eighth grade, their results on the tests determine if they promote to the next grade level.

"While I'd like to see more schools meet or exceed the state's average, I am pleased to see the number of schools that have posted increases this year across the subjects and grade levels tested," said Dr. Linda Hayden, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. "We will use the data from these tests to help us focus on improving our instruction across the curriculum. I thank our students and teachers for their hard work. We will continue to strive to reach our ultimate goal—100 percent of our students meeting or exceeding standards in all test categories."

### Elementary School Highlights by Subject and Grade

#### MATHEMATICS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, and South Salem performed at or above the state's average of 87% meeting or exceeding standards.
- Ficquett, Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, Palmer-Stone, Rocky Plains, and West Newton increased the percentage of first grade students meeting or exceeding standards.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Mansfield, Palmer-Stone, and Rocky Plains performed at or above the state's average of 87% meeting or exceeding standards.
- Heard-Mixon, Oak Hill, and Palmer-Stone increased the percentage of second grade students meeting or exceeding standards.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: East Newton, Livingston, Mansfield, and Oak Hill, and Rocky Plains performed at or above the state's average of 87% meeting or exceeding standards.

East Newton, Fiquett, Heard-Mixon, Livingston, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, Palmer-Stone, Rocky Plains, and West Newton all increased the percentage of third-grade students meeting or exceeding standards.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: East Newton and Mansfield performed at or above the state's average of 74% meeting or exceeding standards in Math.

East Newton, Heard-Mixon, Livingston, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Palmer-Stone, Porterdale, and Rocky Plains increased the percentage of fourth-grade students meeting or exceeding standards in math.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: East Newton, Mansfield, and Palmer-Stone performed at or above the state's average of 79% meeting or exceeding standards in Math.

East Newton, Livingston, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, Palmer-Stone, Porterdale, Rocky Plains, and West Newton all increased the percentage of fifth-grade students meeting or exceeding standards in math.

## LANGUAGE ARTS

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: East Newton, Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, and Palmer-Stone performed at or above the state's average of 84% meeting or exceeding standards.

Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, and Rocky Plains increased the percentage of first grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Language Arts.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Palmer-Stone and Rocky Plains performed at or above the state's average of 87% meeting or exceeding standards.

Fairview, Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Palmer-Stone, Porterdale, Rocky Plains, and West Newton increased the percentage of second grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Language Arts.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: East Newton, Fiquett, Mansfield, Oak Hill, and Rocky Plains performed at or above the state's average of 87% meeting or exceeding standards.

East Newton, Fiquett, Middle Ridge, and Rocky Plains all increased the percentage of third-grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Language Arts.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: East Newton, Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Oak Hill, and Rocky Plains performed at or above the state's average of 87% meeting or exceeding standards in Language Arts.

East Newton, Fiquett, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, Porterdale, and Rocky Plains increased the percentage of fourth-grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Language Arts.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: East Newton, Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Oak Hill, and Palmer-Stone performed at or above the state's average of 91% meeting or exceeding standards in Language Arts.

East Newton, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, Palmer-Stone, Rocky Plains, and West Newton all increased the percentage of fifth-grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Language Arts.

## READING

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: East Newton, Heard-Mixon, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, Palmer-Stone, and Rocky Plains performed at or above the state's average of 91% meeting or exceeding standards.

Fairview, Heard-Mixon, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, and West Newton all increased the percentage of first grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Reading.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Mansfield and Palmer-Stone performed at or above the state's average of 92% meeting or exceeding standards.

Fairview, Livingston, Middle Ridge, and Palmer-Stone increased the percentage of second grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Reading.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: East Newton, Ficquett, Mansfield, Palmer-Stone, Oak Hill, and Rocky Plains performed at or above the state's average of 88% meeting or exceeding standards.

Ficquett, Heard-Mixon, Livingston, Middle Ridge, Palmer-Stone, Rocky Plains, and West Newton all increased the percentage of third-grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Reading.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: East Newton, Mansfield, Oak Hill, Rocky Plains, and South Salem performed at or above the state's average of 87% meeting or exceeding standards in Reading.

East Newton, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, Palmer-Stone, Porterdale, and Rocky Plains increased the percentage of fourth-grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Reading.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: East Newton, Mansfield, and Palmer-Stone performed at or above the state's average of 88% meeting or exceeding standards in Reading.

East Newton, Middle Ridge, Palmer-Stone, and West Newton all increased the percentage of fifth-grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Reading.

## SCIENCE

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: East Newton, Ficquett, Mansfield, Oak Hill, Palmer-Stone, and Rocky Plains performed at or above the state's average of 80% meeting or exceeding standards.

East Newton, Ficquett, Heard-Mixon, Livingston, Mansfield, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, Palmer-Stone, Rocky Plains, and West Newton all increased the percentage of third grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Science.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: East Newton, Mansfield, Oak Hill, and South Salem performed at or above the state's average of 78% meeting or exceeding standards.

East Newton, Heard-Mixon, Livingston, Middle Ridge, Oak Hill, Palmer-Stone, Porterdale, Rocky Plains, and West Newton increased the percentage of fourth grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Science.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: East Newton, Mansfield, and Palmer-Stone performed at or above the state's average of 76% meeting or exceeding standards.

East Newton, Fairview, Middle Ridge, Palmer-Stone, Porterdale, and West Newton all increased the percentage of fifth-grade students meeting or exceeding standards in Science.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: East Newton, Ficquett, Livingston, and Mansfield performed at or above the state's average of 76% meeting or exceeding standards.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: East Newton, Mansfield, and Oak Hill performed at or above the state's average of 71% meeting or exceeding standards.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: East Newton, Mansfield, Oak Hill, and Palmer-Stone performed at or above the state's average of 71% meeting or exceeding standards.

**\*\*Note** Students were tested using the Quality Core Curriculum in 2008 and the Georgia Performance Standards in 2009. As a result, a comparison of student performance cannot be conducted due to the different assessments.

## Middle School Highlights by Subject and Grade

### READING

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: None of the district's middle schools performed at or above the state's average of 90% meeting or exceeding standards.

Veterans Memorial Middle School's maintained its 88% rate of students meeting or exceeding standards in sixth-grade reading.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Clements exceeded the state's average of 89% meeting or exceeding standards.

Clements and Cousins increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in seventh-grade reading. Indian Creek and Veterans Memorial maintained their 87% average.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Indian Creek and Veterans Memorial exceeded the state's 93% average of meeting or exceeding standards in eighth-grade reading.

Indian Creek and Veterans Memorial also increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: None of the district's middle schools performed at or above the state's average of 91% meeting or exceeding standards.

Indian Creek and Veterans Memorial increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in sixth-grade Language Arts.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Clements, Indian Creek, and Veterans Memorial performed at or above the state's average of 89% meeting or exceeding standards.

Clements, Cousins, and Indian Creek increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in seventh-grade Language Arts.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Indian Creek and Veterans performed at or above the state's 92% average of meeting or exceeding standards in eighth-grade Language Arts.

Cousins, Indian Creek, and Veterans Memorial also increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards.

## MATHEMATICS

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: None of the district's middle schools performed at or above the state's average of 75% meeting or exceeding standards in math.

Clements, Indian Creek, and Veterans Memorial increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in sixth-grade math.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Clements and Indian Creek performed at the state's average of 84% meeting or exceeding standards.

Clements, Cousins, Indian Creek, and Veterans Memorial all increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in seventh-grade math.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Indian Creek performed above the state's 70% average of meeting or exceeding standards in eighth-grade math.

Clements, Indian Creek, and Veterans Memorial Middle increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards.

## SCIENCE

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: None of the district's middle schools performed at or above the state's average of 69% meeting or exceeding standards in science.

Indian Creek and Veterans Memorial increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in sixth-grade science.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Indian Creek performed above the state's average of 76% meeting or exceeding standards.

Indian Creek increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards in seventh-grade science.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Indian Creek matched the state's 64% average of meeting or exceeding standards in eighth-grade science.

Cousins and Veterans Memorial Middle increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Per the Georgia Department of Education, sixth-grade social studies scores will not be reported due to standards setting. (2008 tests were invalidated due to the misalignment of the test and curriculum)

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Per the Georgia Department of Education, seventh-grade social studies scores will not be reported due to standards setting. (2008 tests were invalidated due to the misalignment of the test and curriculum)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Indian Creek bested the state's 63% average of meeting or exceeding standards in eighth-grade social studies.

Indian Creek and Veterans Memorial Middle School increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards.

"I want to thank all of our schools for their hard work on the CRCT," said Dr. Shelia Thomas, Director of Federal Programs and former Director of Testing. "I am excited to see the district made improvements in the area of math. We look forward to seeing continued improvement again next year."

AYP determinations are not available from DOE at this time. For more information, contact the Newton County School System Department of Public Relations at 770-784-2908.

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