

# CPSD test scores among top statewide



Special to The Clinton Courier

Eastside Elementary School math teacher Kerri Burnside shows student Blake Thompson the rules of a game to help her students learn place value.

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Fourth-grade math teacher Kerri Burnside passed out papers to her students as part of last week's place value review.

She instructed students to pair up and take out their pencils.

"Today, we're going to play a game to help us review place value," she said. "You will close your eyes, pretend your finger is a spinner, put your finger on the paper and wherever your finger lands, write that number down on your paper. Before you write it down, decide the place value you want the number to have."

"Think carefully about the place value, because you will compare numbers with your partner, and the partner with the largest value will win."

The place value game is one of

many ways, every day, that Clinton teachers keep students engaged and on track with their academic goals.

The results of their work are evident; according to state test scores recently released by the Mississippi Department of Education, ninety-three percent of Clinton fourth-graders passed the English Language Arts state test (scoring a three, four or five), and a whopping 98.6 percent of Clinton fourth-graders passed the math state test.

"This sets the bar very, very high for next year when you're talking about growth," said Dr. Tim Martin, superintendent of schools. "Our teachers are hitting it out of the park. Fewer than two percent of our fourth graders scored below three on this test. Next year, we're expected to perform at a

higher level, which doesn't leave a lot of room for us to meet the growth component of the accountability formula."

MAAP tests have five levels. Students scoring levels four or five are considered proficient or advanced in the subject.

Data released in August is only test scores; accountability letter grades will be calculated and released later this fall by MDE. Mississippi Academic Assessment Program, or MAAP, measures students' progress toward academic goals that equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in college and the workforce.

Mississippi teachers helped develop the MAAP tests, which align with the learning goals for Mississippi

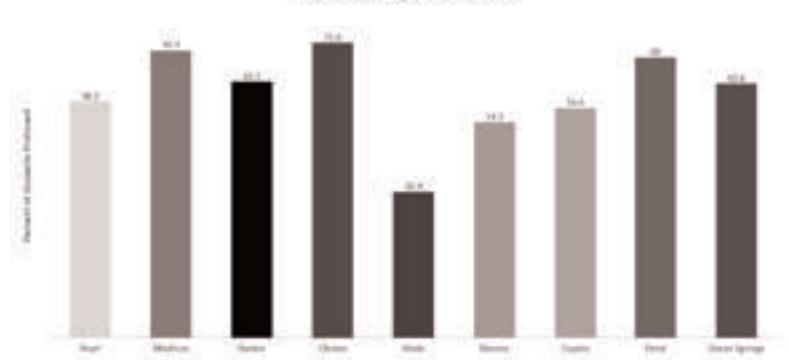
classrooms. MAAP measures student performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and math in grades three through eight and in high school English II and Algebra I.

District-wide, student scores improved over last year in most areas. Martin said the scores speak to the high quality of Clinton's teachers, and also give schools guidance on areas for improvement.

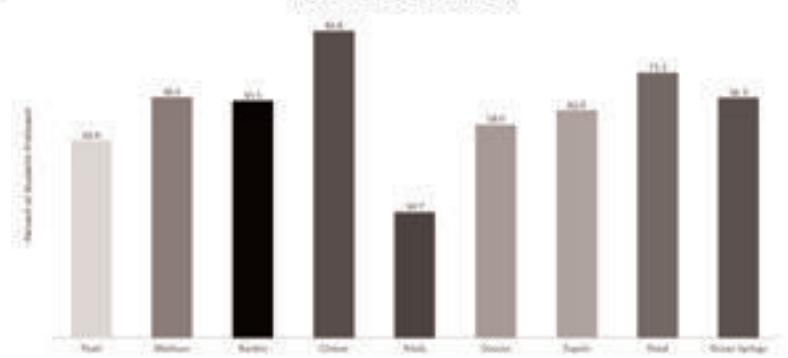
"Statewide assessments ensure that children in every school are achieving the learning goals for each grade level," said Dr. Carey Wright, Mississippi Superintendent of Education. "When students score proficient or advanced, parents can be assured their child's school is providing a quality education that has prepared students to be successful in the next grade level."



4th Grade ELA



4th Grade Math



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2 YEARS



5 YEARS



8 YEARS

