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Everybody's Talkin': ACT still not a popular test in area

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WORM'S WAY GROUP

It was recently announced that 2008 Indiana high school graduates scored above the national average on the ACT college entrance exam for the 18th consecutive year. It was also announced that a record number of students, 15,884, took the test — an 11 percent increase from the previous year.

While the number of Hoosiers taking the ACT may have risen on average, it still isn't the most popular test for Lawrence County students.

Mitchell High School counselor Julie Hewetson said maybe three to five students take the test each year. And Bedford North Lawrence counselor Becky Sprinkle said most of the students take the SAT. BNL had 21 students take the exam last year.

Here are the average results for the state and BNL students:

English — State: 21.4; BNL: 23.0

Math — State: 22.2; BNL: 25.6

Reading — State: 22.5; BNL: 23.3

Science — State: 21.5; BNL: 23.9

Composite — State: 22.0; BNL: 24.1

According to the college readiness benchmarks the ACT has established, a student should have earned an 18 on the English portion of the test, a 22 in math, a 21 in reading and a 24 in science. Correlating with those numbers, 86 percent of BNL test takers met the English benchmark, 81 percent made it in math, 62 percent made it in reading, 57 met the science benchmark and 48 percent met all four.

Touchdown T's

Purchasing a T-shirt could give some hungry football players some grub.

BNL teacher Sandy Craig, who is also with the school's Touchdown Club, has announced that Touchdown Club T-shirts are available for \$10. The funds go to the school's football teams — the freshman squad, junior varsity and varsity teams — mostly to help feed the boys before and after games.

She explained that some away games are far enough away, that the team members don't grab a bite to eat after school because they don't leave the school until packed onto the bus for a game. So, rather than send them on the field with empty stomachs, the Touchdown Club provides a sandwich, drink and piece of fruit before the game, and often pizza or chicken dinners after the game. She said with team members, coaches, managers and sometimes student trainers, meals for one game day could rack up \$300-\$400.

The T-shirt fundraiser is one way to off-set those costs.

For those interested in purchasing a shirt, Craig said they are sold at the "hut" at home games, or you may contact her by calling the high school at 279-9756.

OnTrack

School is back in session, and the Indiana Department of Education and Commission for Higher Education wants to help students and families start the school year off right by providing every student with a grade-specific student success mini-magazine titled OnTrack. These publications are meant to provide helpful information on key learning topics including study skills, Indiana's Academic Standards, ISTEP-Plus, Core 40, career exploration, planning and preparing for college, study strategies, tips for parents and more.

This year, the mini-magazines offer even more resources for families. New inside the grades 6, 7 and 8 publications is an application for Indiana's Twenty-first Century Scholars Program. Income-eligible students in grades 6 through 8 who enroll in the program and fulfill a pledge of good citizenship are guaranteed a tuition scholarship at any participating college or university in Indiana.



Copies of the magazines were sent to all schools statewide to be delivered to all students in grades K-10 at the beginning of the school year. Additional magazines for high school juniors and seniors, NEXT Indiana: A Guide to Life after High School, have also been shipped to every public and accredited non-public high school around the state. The helpful booklets provide links to additional resources including Learn More Indiana — the state's college and career connection. If you have not received your copy, you can download the magazines at www.learnmoreindiana.org/pubs.

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