

The MME State Test
by Tom Antioho, Principal
Reed City High School

By the time that you read this article, the junior class of Reed City High School will have participated in the Michigan Merit Examination. This assessment is offered to all juniors in the state of Michigan, and it is a three-day test that covers the ACT plus writing, Michigan mathematics with work keys, and the Michigan Science /Social Studies. It will be, without question, a challenging three days for our students, not only because of the material that will be covered, but the logistics of administering such an assessment to 138 students at one time and for the length of time in testing.

We will not be alone in delivering this test to our juniors as every school in the state of Michigan will be taking this test on the same three days. Will it be a challenge? The answer is yes, and that is for the students who are taking it and the logistics that have to be in place according to state guidelines. I feel comfortable it will work for us due to the fact that there has been a committee working on this program for the last five months in preparation of the second week of March, and we are ready to administer the MME (Michigan Merit Examination).

Just to share with you the logistics as it relates to the test are as follows:

- Specific tests can only be given on specified dates.
- A testing center must be established where there can be no interruptions such as bells, announcements, hallway traffic, *etc.* Any off-site accommodations need to have ACT approval.
- An hourly schedule must be developed for each day of testing, which encompasses the actual time of the test, starting of the day, breaks, lunch, end of the day and transportation.
- Each student must be assigned a room, a specific seat that matches up with their individual bar-coded test for all days of the assessment.
- All students must be facing the front of room and there must be at least a three-foot radius surrounding each test taker.
- No more than twenty-five students in any testing room.
- No food or drink are allowed in testing rooms.
- No test supervisors can be related to any student throughout the state of Michigan who will be taking the MME.
- Only certain calculators on the state's approved list can be used during the test.
- Prior to the testing dates, a day needs to be established to have all the test takers fill in the demographics (bubble in the ovals) for each one of the three tests. This will take approximately two-and-one-half hours to complete.
- All students taking the test must be preidentified so bar coding labels can be used throughout the testing dates.

- Accommodations for students who are taking the test must receive ACT and State approval before any accommodations can be afforded the test taker.

Maybe at this point you can see the number of requirements that the school must adhere to before we can offer the testing material itself. I will share with you that we have done a fabulous job of adhering to all of these requirements and we are ready to administer the test.

With all this being said, the test as a stand alone item is a challenge assessment to say the least and we are hoping that the students are as ready to perform as the development committee has been in its design.

Please keep in mind that this is the first time through the MME assessment, so I hope everyone understands the outcome will give us a benchmark for future tests.