

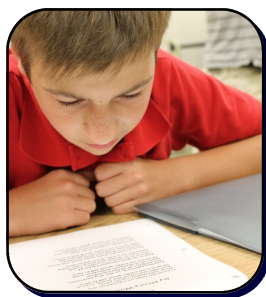
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The Messenger

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Good Readers Are Great Learners: *Usage of Lexile Scores in Our Christian School*



Lexile measurements were developed in the 1980's and researched in the early 2000's. In recent years, Lexile measurements have been used to aid parents and schools in

helping children improve their reading comprehension and target various comprehension levels at each grade, increasing scores as the child advances to a college readiness level.

The Lexile measurement evaluates text complexity in reading material. This involves evaluating levels of words being used and sentence complexity to determine scores to rate reading material and student ability to understand that reading material. The test will not identify age-appropriate

reading but will help us to determine levels of difficulty in reading and comprehension. Lexiles are attempting to connect books with children to improve their reading.

Consider this: A father takes his son to the store to buy shoes. The salesperson asks them, "What kind of shoes do you need?" The father replies, "He needs basketball shoes." As the salesperson leads them to the basketball shoes, he asks, "How old is your son?" The father answers, "He is 12." And so the salesperson points to five pairs of shoes on the wall and says, "There are our age-12 basketball shoes." Not likely, right? We do not buy shoes by age; we buy them by size. However, for years we have matched students with books and other learning materials based on age or grade level. If a student likes history books, is nine years old, and in the fourth grade, he is

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Band Festival at Fourth Baptist

On Monday, November 5, Fourth Baptist Christian School hosted the MACS Band Festival with Dr. David Brown from Maranatha Baptist Bible College as our guest conductor. 75 students and staff from Fourth Baptist in Plymouth, First Baptist in Rosemount, Chisago Lakes Baptist in Chisago City, and Woodcrest Baptist Academy participated in the event.



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Lexile Scores *(continued from page 1)*

given “fourth grade history books” to read. But what if that fourth grader’s reading ability is far higher than the “average” student his age, or he is not quite reading on a fourth-grade level? Like the boy’s age-12 basketball shoes, the text simply does not fit the student. When shoe shopping, the scale used to measure the boy’s foot for his sneakers tells you his shoe size, not his age. Similarly, the Lexile Framework determines a student’s reading ability, not his grade level. With Lexile measures, assessment results are used to ensure a “good fit” because the Lexile measure is used to select reading

(SAT). By the end of school in May, we receive testing results with the Lexile score of each child on their individual testing summary. The school pays extra for this evaluation, but we think that it is worth the money to evaluate the reading scores of each of our students.



FIGURE 1: Lexile Stretch Bands by Grade

Grade Band	Current Lexile Band	"Stretch" Lexile Band
2–3	450L–725L	450L–790L
4–5	645L–845L	770L–980L
6–8	860L–1010L	955L–1155L
10–11	960L–1115L	1080L–1305L
11–CCR	1070L–1220L	1215L–1355L

material that meets and challenges each student’s ability (“Lexile Framework for Reading,” MetaMetrics, www.lexile.com).

We have been using Lexile scores for the past two years at Fourth Baptist Christian School. Each year, we do a comparison of Lexile scores and try to encourage our parents to keep our students reading. But we do not want them just to read any material; we want them to read material that is in their current Lexile band, and we want them to stretch their reading by increasing their reading complexity.

We have approximately 26,000 volumes in our school library. Currently, we have identified the Lexiles of approximately 1,000 of our books, and we are working on identifying 10,000 more. The total Lexile data base includes approximately 120,000 books and several thousand more are being added each month. Parents can go to Lexile.com to check the Lexile score of any of these catalogued books.

In April of each year, our school tests our 1st – 11th grade students with the Stanford Achievement Test

An example of the value of the Lexile score is found in the college entrance exams. The ACT College Entrance Exam is written at a Lexile of 1210. A senior with a Lexile score of 1210 will comprehend approximately 75% of the test. To achieve 90% comprehension, the student’s Lexile score must be 250 points higher, approximately 1460. For the SAT test, the Lexile score should be at least a 1330 for 75% comprehension, and most college text books are written at a Lexile level of 1395.

For this year’s senior class, I reviewed each student’s Lexile score from the achievement testing last April. Twelve of our fifteen seniors had a Lexile score above 1200, and our top six students had a Lexile score above 1300. For the past three years, our seniors have

FIGURE 2: Forecasted comprehension of books with various Lexile measures

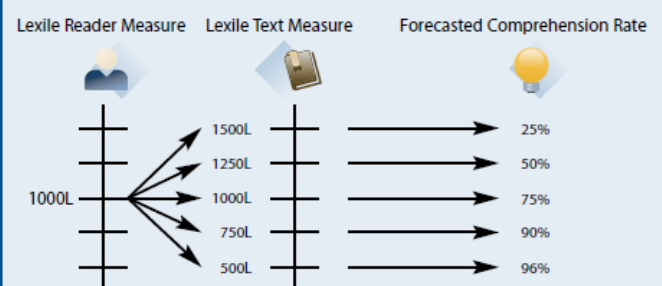
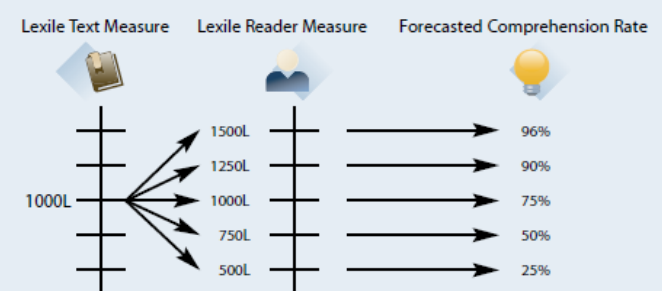


FIGURE 3: Forecasted comprehension of a text by readers with various Lexile measures



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(Lexile Scores, Continued from page 2)

averaged a 25 composite score on their ACT College Entrance Exam.

While I am pleased that our students' scores are good, this will give us some benchmarks to work toward for future classes. It will also give us data to study as we set reading targets for our classes. As we understand how to help our students increase their reading comprehension, we can realize an increase in student reading comprehension, and most likely, in testing scores as well.

Of course, one of the key ingredients to success in improving reading is educating ourselves about Lexiles. In the summer, parents need to plan reading time for our children. We don't want our students to read just anything, but quality material which will raise their reading comprehension level. We now have a way to

do this by going to Lexile.com, putting in the ISBN number of a book, and finding its Lexile range. We then can compare it with the Lexile score for that student, and using the "stretch" Lexile band, help the student increase their reading level. We will be asking our parents to select books that will stretch our students' reading over the summer. The more the student reads at the stretch level, the more complex the reading material. It just stands to reason that if we help our children read at a slightly higher level of complexity and continue to raise their level of reading, we should see them become more comfortable at a higher level of reading. Then, hopefully, we will see comprehension levels increase as well. And that is what we want to see, students with increasing reading levels from year to year in order to meet and exceed "college and testing readiness" levels by the time they are juniors and seniors in high school.

~Mr. Alan J. Hodak, *Executive Director*, Minnesota Association of Christian Schools (MACS) [Figures obtained from Lexile.com]

MACS Calendar 2012-13

Dec. 3	Bible Quizzing at Granite City, St. Cloud
Jan. 14	Bible Quizzing at Victory, Rochester
Jan. 29	Student Leadership Conference at Fourth Baptist, Plymouth
Jan. 31	MACS Legislative Breakfast at Kelly Inn, St. Paul
Feb. 7	MACS Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest Baptist, Fridley
Feb. 11	Bible Quizzing at Grace, Mankato
Feb. 21-23	MACS State Basketball Tournament at Fourth Baptist, Plymouth
Mar. 7	MACS Jr. High Fine Arts Festival at Woodcrest Baptist, Fridley
Mar. 11	Bible Quizzing at Woodcrest Baptist, Fridley
Apr. 5	MACS Sr. High Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist, Plymouth
Apr. 5	MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist, Plymouth
May 10	Granite City Baptist Track Meet at Granite City St. Cloud, MN



Basketball Season has begun!

Remember to submit your scores to Alison French via the Minnesota Association of Christian Schools (MACS) website, www.mnchristianschools.org. (Or you may e-mail Alison directly at afrench@fourthbaptist.org.)



The Athletics section on the website has been cleared of all scores and we are ready for the new season. Games scores should be reported by both teams immediately following each event. Please do this in a timely fashion, so that we can keep these pages up-to-date.

If you have any questions, please contact Alison French at: afrench@fourthbaptist.org. Thanks for your help!



The day began with instrumental masterclasses for the students given by various local professional musicians. The students spent three hours in full band rehearsals as they worked with Dr. Brown. The repertoire included *Semper Fidelis*, *Colonel Bogey March*, *Amazing Grace*, and *Metalla* which were performed at a concert at the end of the day.

The Festival gave each student a chance to perform in a large band and to develop their God-given musical abilities more fully. ♦

—Levi Kolwinski, Fourth Baptist Music Director



Students Receive National Merit Scholarship Program Honors



Two students from Fourth Baptist Christian School received National academic honors in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Senior, Miss Erin Burggraff, was recognized for her outstanding PSAT performance, scoring in the top 2%. She received a "Letter of Commendation" from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Senior, Mr. Matthew Bruffey, scored in the top 1% of all students nationally earning "National Merit Semi-Finalist status from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Matthew will go on in the competition to compete to receive "Finalist" status.

The PSAT test, taken nationally on a specific day during the junior year, is the basis for this national scholarship program. ♦

Granite City 25th Annual Soccer/Volleyball Tournament Results

Granite City Baptist Academy held their annual invitational soccer and volleyball tournament on September 14, 2012.

We want to thank [the teams] for participating in our 25th annual tournament – it was a great two days (Praise the Lord!) Following are the results from this year's event.

We appreciate the attention of all during the Friday challenge, as well as the good Christian testimony on and off the field.

Having had such a fun tournament, it's exciting to look forward to next year. ♦

-Pastor Dennis Campbell, GBCA
info@granitecitybaptist.org

SOCCER	W	L
Mankato/Owatonna	3	0
Heritage (Karlstad)	2	1
St. Cloud/Twin Ports	1	2
Faith (Foreston)	0	3
All Tournament Team:		
Clay Carns—Grace		
Kyle Jorgenson—Heritage		
Brett Klopp—Heritage		
Paul Selin—Faith		
Mark Shold—Twin Ports		
MVP: Wesley Schultz—Grace		

VOLLEYBALL	W	L
Faith (Foreston)	3	0
Mankato/Owatonna	2	1
St. Cloud/Twin Ports	1	2
Cloverdale	0	3
ALL-TOURNAMENT HONORS:		
Anniki Rahko—Cloverdale		
Lauren Friechels—Faith		
Mariessa Hennessey – Grace		
Naomi Jossund—Twin Ports		
Lauren Ward—Grace		
MVP: Maddie Brown—Faith		





First Baptist Crusaders, Rosemount—2012 MACS Champions



Fourth Baptist Warriors, Plymouth—Second Place



Lake Region Hornets—Third Place



All-Tournament Team

2012 MACS State Soccer Tourney Results

Tournament held October 25-27, 2012
at First Baptist School, Rosemount

Champion: First Baptist Crusaders
Rosemount

Second Place: Fourth Baptist Warriors
Plymouth

Third Place: Lake Region Hornets
Brainerd/Baxter

Consolation: Sabres (Combined team)
Owatonna/Mankato



All Tournament Team

Boys Soccer:

1. MVP: Daniel Foster – Rosemount
2. Dawson Barringer – Lake Region
3. Bryton Hanson – Karlstad
4. Robert Horn – Fourth Baptist
5. Victor Goncharenko – Rosemount
6. Naekwon You – Rosemount
7. Daniel Newton – Lake Region
8. Kostya Haug – Fourth Baptist
9. Nathan Rupe – Rosemount
10. Justin Keck – Chisago
11. Brett Cournoyer - Woodcrest

2012 MACS State Volleyball Tourney Results

Tournament held October 25-27, 2012
at First Baptist School, Rosemount

Champion: Lake Region Hornets
Brainerd/Baxter

Second Place: Owatonna Christian Sabres
Owatonna

Third Place: Fourth Baptist Warriors
Plymouth

Consolation: First Baptist Crusaders
Rosemount



Thanks to First Baptist School of Rosemount for hosting
a wonderful tournament weekend.
Thanks to all of the MACS schools who came to participate!

The 2013 MACS Soccer/Volleyball Tournament will be hosted
by Lake Region Christian School, Brainerd/Baxter.
See you there!

All Tournament Team

Girls Volleyball:

1. MVP: Bethany Cressman – Lake Region
2. Kari Weil – Owatonna
3. Samantha Snow – Lake Region
4. Ashley Amborn – Fourth Baptist
5. Bethany Corwine – Owatonna
6. Haiven Kloeckner – St. Francis



Lake Region Hornets, Brainerd/Baxter—2012 MACS Champions



Owatonna Christian Sabres, Owatonna—Second Place



Fourth Baptist Warriors, Plymouth—Third Place



All-Tournament Team

MACS 2012 All-Conference Selections



First Team - Soccer

Daniel Foster – Rosemount
Naekwon You – Rosemount
Nathan Rupe – Rosemount
Jeff Freutel – Rosemount
Robert Horn – Fourth Baptist
Daniel Newton – Lake Region
Dawson Barringer – Lake Region
Justin Keck – Chisago
Wesley Schultz – Owatonna
Kevin Newland – Woodcrest
Brett Cournoyer – Woodcrest

Second Team - Soccer

Jonah Trout – Lake Region
Kostya Haug – Fourth Baptist
Josh Vigstol – Fourth Baptist
Rajan Mohinani – Fourth Baptist
Alec Hraba – Chisago
Johnny Newburg – Chisago
Scott Freutel – Rosemount
Kyle Jorgenson – Heritage
Ryan Filkins – Lake Region
Christian Waits – Rosemount
Jordan Powell – Woodcrest

Honorable Mention - Soccer

Randall Larson – Rosemount
Matt Shold – Granite City
Bryton Hanson – Heritage
Brett Klopp – Heritage
Christian Olarte – Chisago
Ryan Christiansen – Lake Region
Joey Beltran – Lake Region
Sammy Johnson – Rosemount
Ethan Schultz – Owatonna
Josh Peterson – Fourth Baptist

First Team – Volleyball

Kari Weil – Owatonna
Haiven Kloeckner – St. Francis
Rachel Darling – Woodcrest
Liz Helder – Rosemount
Kim Gustafson – Fourth Baptist
Amber Wikstrom – Heritage
Samantha Snow – Lake Region

Second Team – Volleyball

Lauren Ward - Mankato
Kyana Kloeckner – St. Francis
Erica Kirkwold – Chisago
Victoria Bennett – Chisago
Ashley Amborn – Fourth Baptist
Savannah Brennan—Fourth Baptist
Bethany Corwine – Owatonna

Honorable Mention – Volleyball

Morgan Klopp - Heritage
Bethany Cressman—Lake Region
MacKenzie Meyer – Woodcrest
Naomi Jossund – Twin Ports
Ashley Graves – Rosemount
Alyssa Larson – Owatonna
Mariesa Hennessey – Mankato
Jodi Russell – Heritage

MN Concussion Law

Minnesota Legislature's "Concussion Law" Requires Online Training for All Coaches and Officials and Concussion Education for all Parents and Athletes.

The Minnesota Legislature recently passed a "Concussion Law" which requires any municipality, business, school district or nonprofit organization that organizes a youth athletic activity and charges a fee to follow the statute's requirements, including implementing concussion training and education to improve player safety and establish safe return-to-play policies for athletes who sustain a concussion.

The law mandates that:

- All coaches (head and assistants) and officials receive concussion training and education by September 1, 2011, and then at three-year intervals thereafter.
- Coaches must remove an athlete from activity if they exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion and/or are suspected of sustaining a concussion.
- The law also requires an appropriate health care professional's signature to return to play if an athlete

is removed due to a concussion or is showing signs or symptoms of a concussion.

The Concussion Education we recommend for coaches and officials is the online video training session developed by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Federation of State High Schools. Over 200,000 coaches and officials have already successfully completed this course. The training process involves watching a video and then successfully completing a quiz. The entire training module can be completed in a little over a half an hour and then participants can print out a certificate on their desktop or print and scan the certificate to create a digital file.

To complete the free on-line course, click this link:

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/Training/HeadsUpConcussion.html>

MACS Athletic Director Mark Monroe sent out this information to our MACS Athletic Directors last Spring. As an article entitled "State Legislatures Enact Concussion Laws" in High School Today hit newsstands earlier this week, let this serve as a reminder to have concussion training completed by all coaches for the health and safety of all your student athletes. ♦