

Herron High School Students Make Significant Academic Achievement!

A review of academic achievement in our first year 2006-2007

Herron High School's students, along with a superior faculty, staff, and administration, have recorded a record-breaking first year in their actual academic growth over their expected academic growth, as compared to students the same age from across the United States. Ball State University administered the Northwest Evaluation Association's nationally standardized Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) to all students at Herron High School. The tests were given at the beginning and the end of the school year. Assessments were measured in reading, language usage, and mathematics. The MAP test measures academic growth over time, independent of grade level or age. Over 2,500 school districts in the nation used the MAP assessment to measure academic growth and inform teaching.

While each student is given vital information about his or her academic growth over the year, each school is also given a mean (average) growth score in the academic areas listed above. The unit measure is called a RIT score, or Rasch unit, named after the developer. For example, a growth of 2 RIT units in math might be what a school should typically expect for math growth in a year. The average academic growth of students is determined by using the previous year's NWEA Norming Study. It compares students who were in the same grade and began the growth comparison period at a similar achievement level. This determines "typical growth."

The Great News!

In mathematics, the typical growth (expected growth) in one year was 2 RIT units. Herron High School's mean (average) student growth from the fall of 2006 to the spring of 2007 was 5 RIT units. **That is a growth of 2 ½ years during only one year in math!**

In language usage, the typical growth (expected growth) in one year was 2 RIT units. Herron High School's mean (average) student growth from the fall of 2006 to the spring of 2007 was 6 RIT units. **That is a growth of 3 years during only one year in language usage!**

In reading, the typical growth (expected growth) in one year was 2 RIT units. Herron High School's mean (average) student growth from the fall of 2006 to the spring of 2007 was 7 RIT units. **That is a growth of 3 ½ years during only one year in reading!**

Herron High School teachers have focused on a rigorous plan to make all students college-ready (admitted to postsecondary institutions) by the time they complete their high school studies. The school uses a classical liberal arts focus with an art history timeline. It has an early college partnership with Marion College. Teachers meet every

week to examine student achievement data, along with using a common focus on literacy skills in all classrooms. These data indicate that the school's efforts are working, and arguably are working much better than many other schools. Creating student academic success is the daily focus. For more information about Herron High School, visit them on the web at: www.herronhighschool.org.

For more information on the NWEA MAP Assessment, visit www.nwea.org.