

Chippewa Valley students enjoy a perfect day on the lake



A boat from the Macomb County Sheriff's Office Marine Division loaded with middle school students from Chippewa Valley Schools heading out on Lake St. Clair. The kids were treated to a ride and tour of the facility for getting 100 percent on their boating safety exam. GINA JOSEPH - THE MACOMB DAILY

By [Gina Joseph](#), **The Macomb Daily**

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A couple seventh-graders, who chose to sit at the back of the boat during their ride with the Macomb County Sheriff's Office Marine Division. GINA JOSEPH - THE MACOMB DAILY

Thursday was a perfect day at the Macomb County Sheriff's Office Marine Division.

Deputies hosted 100 students who scored 100 percent on their boating safety exam. Under blue skies and with temperatures in the 80s the students enjoyed a boat ride on Lake St. Clair.

"We get about 5,000 students a year and only about 200 or 300 get 100 percent on the exam," said Nicholas Hoffman, who was one of several Marine Division deputies helping the kids gear up for the boat ride and tour

of the facility in Harrison Township along with an interesting presentation by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

“I’m excited,” said one of the seventh-graders wearing a life jacket and among the first in line for a boat ride.

Chippewa Valley Schools students filled the four boats that ventured onto the lake.

“We have students from Wyandot, Iroquois, Algonquin, Seneca and Sequoyah,” Hoffman said, before heading off to help another group of kids with their life jackets.

Among the deputies looking forward to treating the children to a fun ride were Robert Richard and Cory Brossard.

“We’ll probably take them out to the shipping channel so they can see the freighters and then out to the lighthouses,” Richard said, taking the wheel of the boats, which were primed and ready for the ride and the long Memorial Day weekend ahead.

Michigan law requires a boater’s safety certificate to operate a boat for anyone born after July 1, 1996 and for anyone born after Dec. 31, 1978 to operate a personal watercraft.