

Ninth-Graders Learn Lifesaving Techniques

BY TERRY POPE

"Are you okay?" the student asked and began inspecting the lifeless figure in front of him. As expected, the manikin did not respond so West Brunswick High School ninth-grader Ronald Lance began giving the dummy mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

On the floor of the school's multi-purpose room Monday were rows of

manikins, their chests heaving up and down, while students practiced their first lesson in the week-long lifesaving course. About 300 ninth-graders will take the class this week that was initiated at all three high schools by the Brunswick County Board of Education.

Ninth-graders in health or physical education classes will take the pro-

gram taught by trained instructors from each school and volunteers from the American Red Cross chapter in Wilmington. Last year, the board of education agreed to fund the program by purchasing the manikins and materials for \$3,600 after being approached with the idea from Red Cross volunteers.

"We'll do this thing every year," said Nelson Best, school supervisor of special services. "It'll be a regular part of health education courses, which most students take in the ninth-grade."

Classes have already been given at North Brunswick High School and are scheduled to begin May 13 at South Brunswick High School. In addition to the ninth-grade program, eighth-graders at each school will also be taught basic first-aid in their science classes next year, Best said.

"The kids learn a lot about anatomy and their own physical bodies while in the process they learn to save lives," Best added.

Students will be learning four basic lifesaving techniques from the program including mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, one-person CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), two-person CPR and what to do if someone is choking, said WBHS instructor Greg Norris.

"Everyone will not pass the class and become certified in lifesaving," Norris said, "but even those who don't will be able to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Really, what we're after is just trying to teach students how to save lives. It's important, especially since we're associated with a beach area."

A number of high school teachers were certified to teach the classes last June by Red Cross volunteers. Another training session to get more teachers involved next year will be held in August, Best said.

Several instructors, including Nor-

ris and Coach Ronnie Champion, taught the lifesaving course to about ten West Brunswick juniors and seniors who volunteered to take the program on their own during summer vacation last year. Those students assisted the instructors this week in helping the ninth-graders learn the techniques.

"It's more or less like a self-taught course," Norris said. "One student acts as an instructor while one student acts as the person giving the CPR. Then they'll switch places."

Students are given an introduction to the program and are instructed to follow the lifesaving manual in practicing CPR on the manikins. Once they think they have the technique mastered, they must pass an examination before moving on to the next step in the four-part program.

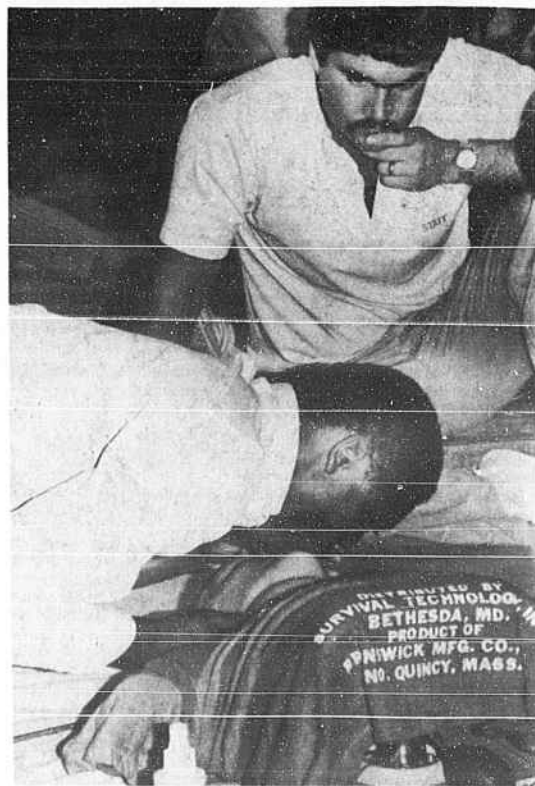
Norris believes about 90 percent of the ninth-graders will pass the mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and one-person CPR portion of the program. Following the first 20 minutes of class Monday afternoon, two students had already passed the first step of the lifesaving program.

"At first, the students were shy in getting started because of having a dummy placed in front of them for the first time," Norris said. "Once they see their friends doing it, they don't hesitate to try. They're doing a good job of getting hands-on experience."

The largest expense of the program, the manikins, have been purchased so the program will only cost the schools an estimated \$2,100 next year, Best said.



STUDENTS MUST pass inspection on the lifesized manikin before moving to the next step in the four-part program. Practicing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is West Brunswick ninth-grader Jeff Long.



INSTRUCTOR Greg Norris watches as West Brunswick High School ninth-grader Ronald Lance practices mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a manikin. Students began the weeklong lifesaving course Monday morning.

Board Reviews School Calendar For 1985-86

Students will be graded on a nine weeks system and have two weeks Christmas vacation and another week off for Easter if a tentative calendar for the 1985-86 school year is approved by the Brunswick County Board of Education.

Approximately 84 percent of Brunswick County's teachers recently voted in favor of a nine weeks grading system instead of the current six weeks system, said Col. William Faught, president of the Brunswick County chapter of the North Carolina Association of Educators.

"Their primary reason is there would be less paperwork involved," Faught said. "Under this system, you would have four grading periods rather than six."

Those in favor of a six weeks scale cited the length between grading periods as a disadvantage to students. Some veteran teachers also "just don't like changes," Faught said.

Under a nine weeks system, teachers will be required to give progress reports to students at the mid-way point in the grading period, School Superintendent Gene Yarbrough said.

"It will be less formal than a report card," Yarbrough said, "but on the high school level it will inform students if they are performing marginally."

Under the proposed calendar, the high schools will hold graduation ceremonies as follows: North Brunswick, June 9; South Brunswick, June 10, and West

Brunswick, June 11, the last day of classes.

Board member James Clemmons questioned why seniors were allowed to graduate before school actually ended, but Yarbrough explained it was standard procedure across the state.

Other holidays for students would

include Labor Day, Sept. 2 and Thanksgiving, Nov. 28-29.

Teachers would report for designated workdays August 21-23 and would have undesignated workdays from August 26-30. Teacher workdays would also be held Oct. 25, Nov. 11, Jan. 27-28, April 11, and June 12-18.



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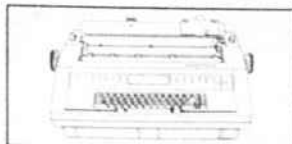
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