

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**More Students Enroll in Foreign Language Study**

SPECIAL REPORT

According to a Modern Language Association study, after two decades of decline, high enrollment in foreign language classes in the 1990s indicates that students are recognizing the importance of learning another language in an increasingly global economy.

The study reveals that 1995 registrations are 13.5 percent higher than in 1986 and 23 percent higher than in 1980.

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**INSIDE**

**Did You Know....**

The first black newspaper in modern times, *The Atlanta Daily World*, began publishing on March 13, 1932?

**Math & Science Academy Helps Students Develop Skills**

BY CHERYL CASH  
 Staff Writer

"The teachers at my school don't have time to give me the extra help that I need," said Kanita Adams, a student at Hill Middle School. "Here at the Math & Science Academy, the teachers are helping me develop skills for the future."

What is The Math & Science Academy of Excellence? What does this special academy offer that can get middle school students (6, 7 and 8th graders) to give up their Saturday mornings?

The Math & Science Academy, which was established eight years ago, is the brainchild of Dr. Virginia K. Newell, professor emeritus of Winston-Salem State University and former Winston-Salem Alderman from 1977 to 1995. She was also chairman of WSSU's Math Department from 1965 to 1985. She is currently a real estate broker and owner of GFN Realty Co.

The academy grew out of the Best Choice Center. Children who were deficient in math were involved in tutoring at the center. Newell saw a need to provide students with the math skills they would need to be able to compete globally. After the students showed remarkable progress, it was decided that they needed to go beyond the basic math concepts and principles. Newell stated that her purpose for teaching mathematics rose from her love of math and her love for teaching.

"God gave me a talent for math. I have a passion for teaching and math. I have a passion for imparting math," explained Newell. "It was fun. It was like solving a puzzle. I felt that everybody should know it."

She has attended many conferences on how to get math across to students. Newell says, "I can teach calculus to the smallest ones. I consider myself a master in calculus."

Newell realized that the students and the program now required classroom space and funds to provide classroom instruction. The program received a partial grant from the National Science Foundation through the Winston-Salem

Forsyth County School System. The program was endorsed by the superintendent of Forsyth County Schools and the former WSSU Chancellor Dr. Cleon Thompson.

The academy's program is held every Saturday from 8 a.m. - Noon, during the winter and spring. The summer expanded program, is held five days a week from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. for six weeks. The academy is housed in the R. J. Reynolds Building during the winter, spring and summer. In the summer, the program also utilizes space in the Hill Hall laboratories.

Throughout the year teachers from WSSU and the W-S/Forsyth County School System work with the students.

Barbara Puryear, teaches Logic and Critical Thinking; Barbara Massey and Deborah Smith, teach Communication. They are from the W-S/Forsyth County School system. WSSU's Dr. Ike Okonta teaches Philosophy and Dr. Elva Jones teaches Computer Science. Gerald Dash, a WSSU senior, teaches application techniques in Computer Science. Michael C. Smith, another teacher, works with the students in Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry and Botany.

Students attending the academy, have the opportunity to choose electives which range from engineering to journalism. Engineers from R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., teach basic concepts of engineering; Maestro Peter Perret, conductor of the W-S Symphony Orchestra, teaches music; and Denise Franklin, former reporter and broadcast journalist for News Channel 12 - WXII teaches journalism.

How did Newell recruit these middle school children who attend the academy?

Newell explained that the children were recruited by the counselors at their schools.

The parents of the students who



*Dr. Virginia Newell and Claire Stackhouse*

attend the academy, have very positive comments about the progress and motivation of their children.

Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Harris stated that Hill Middle School's Gifted - Talented program recommended their daughter, Alison, to the academy. They say the academy is "outstanding and wonderful." Their daughter has made the honor roll, her progress has improved 99.1 percent and her motivation has improved tremendously.

"I want to enrich my math skills. I am taking pre-algebra now," explained Alison. "When I go to high school and take the SAT test for college, I will be prepared. I like everything about the school."

Newell's granddaughter, Mary Banks, said, "I am looking to the future by taking extra classes because I want to go to Harvard."

Dr. Gail Stackhouse says school is excellent for her daughter, Claire, because, "I don't have to push her to come. She wants to come."

"I like the school. I want to further develop my skills in science, because I plan to become a doctor or a scientist," said Jason Walters.