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LOUISIANA OPENS SCHOOL LIKE NCSSM

By Laura Woodworth

Most NCSSM students probably realize how unique this school is; what we may not always see is that NCSSM is a reflection of a greater trend in education. Many schools across the nation are incorporating ideas of advanced education, and there are plans in other states for schools much like NCSSM.

One such school is the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts. Located in Natchitoches, La., a town of 17,000 about one hour south of Shreveport, the school will admit its first class this fall. The school is on the campus of Northwestern Louisiana State University, but it will operate independently of the university. Initial enrollment will be approximately 200 students, which will later increase to 700.

Sharon Sturdivant, Student Activities Coordinator for the Louisiana school, had much to say about the school in a recent phone conversation. To begin with, she was asked how much officials there based their program on the one here at NCSSM. "Quite alot, to tell the truth," she said. The Louisiana personnel have met at length with NCSSM personnel, and many of their programs will be similar to the ones included here, work service and community service for example.

Sturdivant believes that the Louisiana school would have started with or without the example provided by NCSSM. She said that

Louisiana officials are very committed to progressive education, and that the school had been in the works for more than three years now.

There are differences in the two schools. By including the arts in its curriculum, the Louisiana school incorporates into one school what North Carolina divides into two schools.

When Louisiana students enroll this fall, they will specify an area of academic concentration. "However," Sturdivant said, "we're not going to hold them to a certain curriculum. Students can change areas at mid term."

The Louisiana school will have an important NCSSM dimension to its program next fall. Susan Hyatt, NCSSM RA and Student Activities Coordinator, will be working at the Louisiana school next year.

As time draws near to its opening date of September 6, the Louisiana school is receiving more and more public scrutiny. Sturdivant said the attitude of the state's citizens toward the school is favorable, and she said the Louisiana legislature is very supportive.

North Carolina and Louisiana have taken major steps toward offering quality education. One wonders which state will be next.

Governor's School Selects Students

By Hih Song Kim

Six NCSSM juniors have been selected to attend the Governor's School of North Carolina this summer. Due to the unique nature of NCSSM and the academic program it offers to students, only those students aspiring to attend Governor's School in a nonacademic area may be nominated.

The students chosen were Sharron Cunningham and Lewis Davis (choral music), Mary Lynn Mason (drama), Helen Moore, David Parish and James Keirstead (violin, instrumental music).

A six-week residential summer program, Governor's School is targeted toward high school students classified as "gifted and/or talented." Students spend the summer either at St. Andrews College in Laurinburg or at Salem College in Winston-Salem. Approximately 400 students attend each division.

Students are nominated for Governor's School in mathematics, science, English, Spanish, drama, instrumental music, choral music, social sciences, dance or art. Selections in the academic fields are made of the basis of records and testing. Those who are selected in the performing arts have to audition.

There is no charge for tuition, room and board. Governor's School students attend class in their specialty area daily, and all students also take psychology and philosophy courses.

Several NCSSM teachers have taught at Governor's School in previous years, including Mary Louise Bellamy, Randy Foy, Neill Clark and Jackye Meadows.

"Every person has two educations: one which he receives from others and one, more important, which he gives himself." C. C. Colton



Sheila Black, Louis Best and Lisa Gillespie enjoy the arrival of spring.