

## Super Study recalled with restrained appreciation by juniors

By Ty Tran

Though many juniors who have placed out of Super Study reflect on their time there with a conciliatory appreciation for its purpose, but most would agree that there are many ways to improve one of the most hated programs at NCSSM.

Regardless of expressions of exasperation and disdain, most students are aware that Super Study is a well-meaning concept, designed to temper their newly-found autonomy with the lesson that it is necessary not only to work but to study at the School of Science and Mathematics. Temperance, many would point out, however, may be difficult to accommodate, especially when one loses an hour and a half for digital work or leisure.

For the 106 juniors who are no longer required to attend super study, the period that was once spent in industrious silence is now an hour and a half of freedom to work or play as they please. Recalling their time under supervised study, however, most would concede that it was beneficial to their productivity and necessary for the transition into life at NCSSM.

"It was pretty helpful,"

remarked Monal Dipani, a junior who placed out of super study, "I was able to focus and it helped me get my work done."

"Having a time to sit down and focus is a great idea," added Emmanuel Assa, another junior, "especially for the brutal workload."

When questioned on how they are faring without Super Study, students provided a more interesting range of responses.

"I actually work a lot faster outside of Super Study," Dipani revealed.

"I grow rashes from the stress of procrastination now," said one junior who did not wish to be identified.

"It doesn't change anything," admitted another student, "My productivity's decreased, but there's an increase in the variety of work I can do."

Certainly, it seems the availability of the internet can industrialize one's work ethic, or dismiss it entirely. It is hard to deny, however, that a significant amount of work gets done in Super Study, where the atmosphere is structured in the way to orient students in that particular direction, in the sense that there's not really

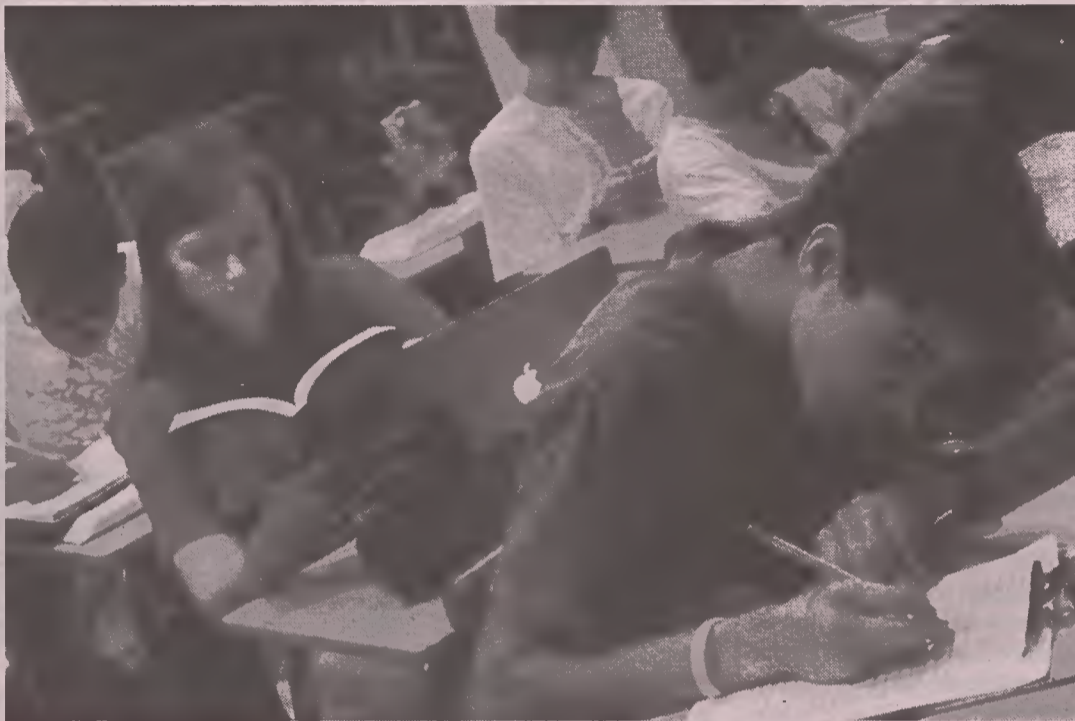
anything better to do.

Adulation aside, what is not surprising are the complaints about not having

homework at NCSSM: the digital assignments.

"Super Study doesn't really work because of the difference

complaints, however, do not fall on deaf ears. "We've developed a pilot for the last two weeks of 1st Trimester,"



Juniors studying in Super Study.

Courtesy of Samantha Hartsoe

access to a computer. It leads to the thought that Super Study, while necessary for incoming juniors, is a naturally flawed system, because while promoting ethics and structure, Super Study intrinsically alienates a critical half of

between the amount of paper work and typed or online work," explained Assa. "If you don't have anything but online work, Super Study is a waste of time - it's an hour and a half of doing nothing."

The most popular

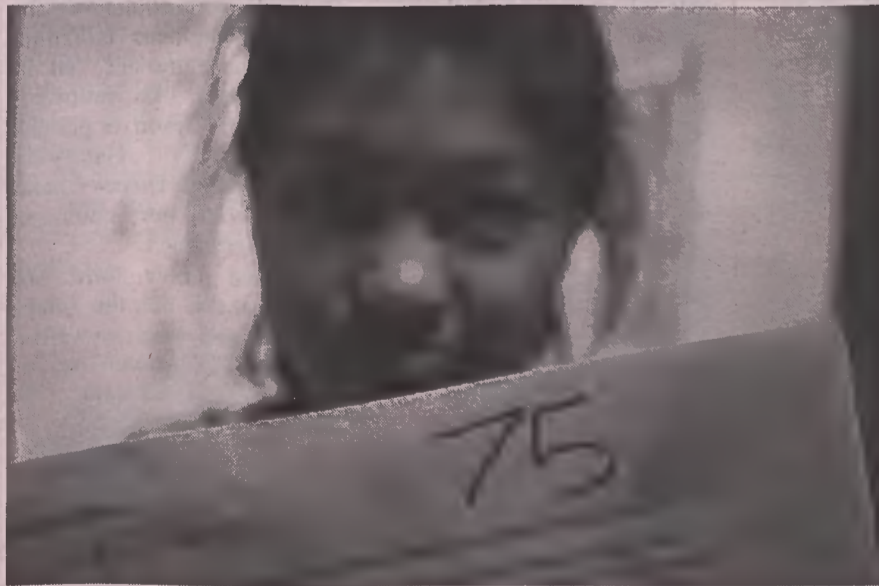
stated Dr. Joan Barber. "The first 45 minutes of supervised study would be devoted to book work, as it is now. In the second 45 minutes, however, students will have the option

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## Juniors anticipate second trimester

By David Ojo

When inquiring juniors ask seniors about second trimester their description often goes something like this: the sun



Juniors are told their grades will drop second tri

Courtesy of Samantha Hartsoe

sets at 4:30. It rains all day long. I would tell you to prepare for the worst 12 weeks of your life, but unfortunately this grading period is longer than that. The extra class will destroy you and teachers start to grade harder. It is utterly impossible to have any fun, ever. January and February will be the longest two months

of your life. Half of your class won't return after winter break. These are just a few of what seems to be an endless list of misconceptions concerning "2nd tri" at NCSSM.

from personal experience, 2nd trimester is a good time to branch out and meet the students you couldn't quite branch out to during the first trimester.

If you're like me and played a varsity sport first trimester, you'll find that you have a newfound abundance of free time after school. For the non-athletes, 2nd trimester is still full of time to capitalize on opportunities. Now that you have had time to settle down and adjust to NCSSM, you can get

a more solid academic start to this trimester, as well as making some headway in extracurricular activities.

To be completely honest, 2nd trimester is different for all those who experience it, but for me, and numerous others, the 2nd trimester at NCSSM is actually more enjoyable than the first.

## Seniors stress about apps

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Your essay should be personal and if you're having all of your friends and teachers read it, it might lose its original point. Honestly, most of the students that read your essays are more focused on their own success with writing than your own.

"It took me awhile to think of an idea for my essay. I wouldn't have been able to do it in just one day and I'm glad I had my parents to help read it over before I submitted," said senior Katy Roys.

Seniors, I understand the stress you were feeling with the crunch to get all of your materials in on time for UNC's early action deadline, but it's important to understand the difference between complaining and actually working toward a solution.

NCSSM's hope for the launch of the Naviance system was to create an online outlet for teachers, students, and colleges to instantaneously submit supplementary forms and records, such as teacher recommendations, transcripts, and other school forms.

Pam Oxendine and the rest of the counseling department have been working to perfect

the Naviance system so that things will run smoothly in weeks to come. The counseling department has worked out arrangements with universities so that applicants' materials will arrive and be considered for admission, even if all the forms don't get in on time due to errors with Naviance.

Senior Hun Wong thinks that the program is user-friendly. "I love Naviance! I pressed five buttons and it worked!"

Other students are little more apprehensive about transcript and teacher recommendation requests. "I don't like that there is no confirmation of any of my documents being submitted," says senior Jocelyn Keung.

Work with your counselor if you're having trouble, be patient, and respect the time and effort that they're giving you.

Applying to college is stressful, but balance is key. Try to get ahead, don't get overwhelmed, don't compare yourself to others, and give yourself a break. Years from now, we'll look back on this time fondly and regret that we were stressing too much to enjoy it.