

High Life

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Grimsley High School
801 Westover Terrace
Greensboro, NC 27408

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Out of the
Blue

Christie Johnson, a freshman, is being recognized by "TEEN" Magazine. Johnson was selected as one of 200 candidates out of 10,000 applications that will progress to Level I of "TEEN" Magazine's 1997 Miss Teenage America Program. Johnson now competes for one of 40 semifinalist positions.

If you are interested in taking either the SAT I or the SAT II on January 25, 1997 the registration deadline is December 20.

Please join the Greensboro Grimsley Senior High School Alumni & Friends Association. This organization will support activities here at Grimsley. For more information contact the GHS Main Office.

Grimsley's counseling center will be holding a Financial Aid Night on Thursday, January 16 at 7 P.M. in the Media Center. Representatives from UNCG's financial aid office will discuss proper methods for filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Aid) and additional sources of money that are available to students.

Guilford College will be offering an SAT preparation course which will take place on February 15, 22 and March 1, 8. The cost of the program is \$190.

Grimsley's Army JROTC defeated Southeast High School's Navy JROTC in the second annual Army/Navy JROTC flag football game. Touchdowns for Grimsley were scored by Dion Hicks, LaBrian Thacker, and Robert Carrington. The final score was 21-14.

Mr. Saunders retires after 28 years at Grimsley

By Brian Schiller
News Editor

Twice as long as some of the freshmen have been alive, that's how long Mr. Saunders has been teaching at Grimsley High School. If you've done your math, you've figured out that Mr. Saunders arrived at Grimsley in the late 1960's, 1968 to be exact.

Before beginning his teaching career, Mr. Saunders had earned the respect of his peers by graduating at the top of his high school class, being elected Senior Class President, performing as a drum major at Western Carolina University, and acting as president of his fraternity at Western Carolina. Both in high school and at Western Carolina Mr. Saunders found himself in the classroom of Dr. Baxter Norton who became a good friend and role model, and was responsible for encouraging Mr. Saunders' desire to teach.

During his tenure at Grimsley, Mr. Saunders has become a legend in the math department. He has taught every level of math offered within the department and initiated the calculus program in the early 1970's. The 21 years he has spent teaching calculus in Room 411 have seen him build a reputation for phenomenal scores on the Advanced Placement Calculus exam. In the past five years only one of his students scored below a three (considered to be a passing grade out of 5 possible points) on this exam. Because Mr. Saunders demands excellent attendance from his students, he imposed that criterion on himself. By this school year he

had accumulated more than 200 days of sick leave in reserve. Mr. Saunders has also held the position of Math Department Chairman since 1984. In that time he has worked within the department to strengthen Grimsley's math program in all areas. In addition to helping his own department, Mr. Saunders also befriended

his discipline in the classroom. Many of his students had also come to rely on his ability to return all papers on the day following the works' submittal.

Mr. Saunders' dedication to his students is one of the reasons that his departure has been hard for the Grimsley community to accept.

Because his retirement came unexpectedly, he has not had time to make any plans for the future. Mr. Saunders did express his hope that his students would understand why he couldn't continue to teach.

"He always had his students at heart and wanted all of his students to succeed," said Ms. Roe. "He is a wonderful person, a good friend, and a teacher that can't be replaced."

In return for his sacrifices Mr. Saunders' students have come to value him as one of their most helpful, influential, and effective teachers. "He always knew whether or not you were working to the best of your ability," said Meagan Renn, a 1996 Grimsley graduate. "The only reason he was ever ill or cranky was to help you do better."

"He is a great teacher who brings out the best efforts in all his students," said James

Williams, a senior. "Once the experience of having him as a teacher is over, you really start to realize just how much you miss him," said Meaghan Graves, a senior.

Mr. Saunders has received several honors for his dedication including Greensboro City Schools Teacher of the Year and being named as the system's Math Teacher of the Year on two separate occasions. In addition Mr. Saunders has received numerous letters from universities commending him on the excellent preparation he has given his students.

"I coasted through my math major at Chapel Hill largely because of him," said Ms. Rohan, a teacher in the math department and a Saunders graduate. "He was one of the main reasons I wanted to teach."

Despite a teaching style that catches many students off guard and forces them to perform at their highest potential, Mr. Saunders is a favorite of many of his students. "I've had lots of outstanding students," said Mr. Saunders, while many remember him as one of their most outstanding teachers.

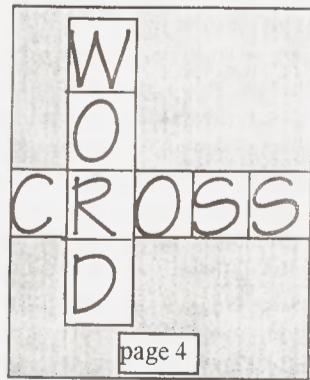


Mr. Saunders through the ages. Clockwise from top left: 1969, 1979, 1989, and 1996. Whirligig photos

other teachers. "He is a dear friend who was fun to work with and made me laugh every day," said Mrs. Bamhardt, a science teacher.

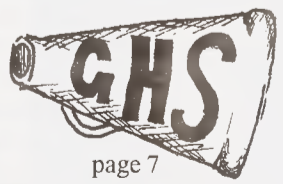
"He made math his life," said Ms. Cooper, a teacher in the math department. Mr. Saunders was known to go to great lengths such as arriving by 7:30 A.M. every morning and staying after school to further his students' understanding of math. Another math teacher who worked with Mr. Saunders during his first years at Grimsley, Mrs. Julie Roe, recalled that she was impressed by his sense of humor and

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