

## Growth spurt cramps students, faculty

By Kate Boylan  
Reporter

This school year, Grimsley's student body is by far one of the largest ever with over 600 freshmen and a total count of 1691 students. The amount of students is so excessive that one class contains 50 students, while in another, a student is forced to sit on a window sill due to a shortage of desks.

The crowded hallways and classrooms have made a huge impact on student life at Grimsley. "It's hard to get one-on-one attention when you have so many people in your class," says Kara Sturey, a senior.

The situation is not just an inconvenience for students, but for the teachers as well. "Giving individual attention to students becomes problematic. Dedicated teachers can become discouraged when overcrowding exists," says Mrs. Thorne-Peoples.

Due to the number of students, hallways are very crowded and students find themselves pushing and shoving their class-

mates to get through the hallsto get to class on time. The hallway traffic jams have caused tardies.

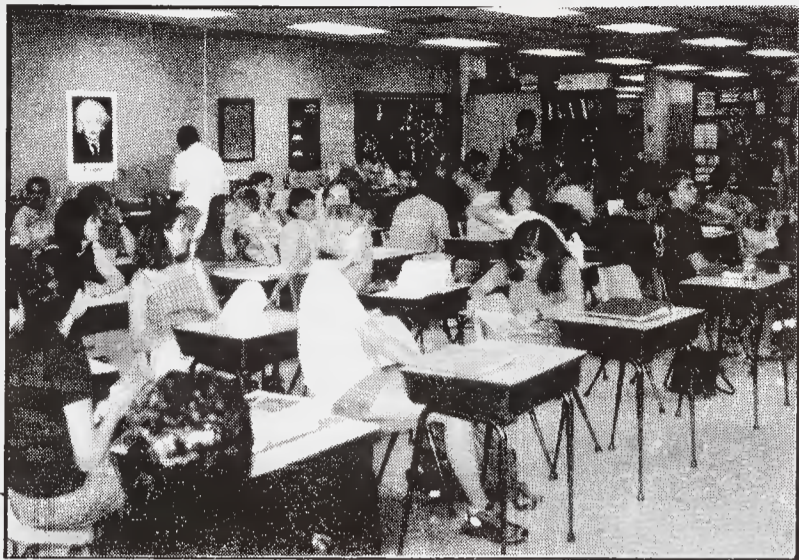
Students also find themselves sharing lockers with two or even three other people. Ms. Rohan, who has 30 people in her homeroom, had only nine lockers to assign to students.

Where are all of these students coming from? Besides the assigned students, students from other high schools in Guilford County attend Grimsley. In fact, Grimsley contains at least one transfer student from every high school in the Guilford County School System, the main feeders being Page, Smith, Northeast, and Dudley.

Also attending Grimsley are tuition students, who pay to take classes here. Students also transfer to Grimsley to participate in the International Baccalaureate Program, the Madrigals, and special technology courses that are not offered at their assigned

school. "These students want to come to Grimsley, which means we offer something that they are good at," says Mrs. Teague.

As Grimsley continues to grow, administrators are working hard to make accommodations for new students.



50 students filled Mr. Griffin's 6th period Physics class during the first two weeks of school. This was a challenge for the students as well as Mr. Griffin.

## Scheduling

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Many upper level classes are only offered once a day, and, as a result, the overlapping of these courses occurs every year. Some students have empty periods, during which they have to be office assistants or study in the library.

These singleton classes have especially affected seniors who are taking mostly AP and IB classes that are only offered once a day due to low enrollment. Senior Emily Turner says, "I was signed up for Calculus, but when I received my schedule, it wasn't on there, so I went to the counseling center and waited four and a half hours. I finally got everything worked out that day, but on the first day of school I got the wrong schedule again. I went to all the wrong classes for three days, and I finally had to drop a class to make my other courses fit."

According to Mrs. Barbee, a guidance counselor, this scheduling ordeal has affected everyone in the school. "It's not fair to teachers who are trying to get the school year up and running with more than the anticipated number of students in each class and still try to give each student individual attention. The guidance counselors are under the stress of being empathetic to students while not having a ready solution," says Mrs. Barbee.

Ms. Raynor emphasized the urgency of working out scheduling conflicts. "We're not stressed, but we are urgent to get students into classes. For some this happens earlier than others. It all depends on what the desired class is and what teachers are available," says Ms. Raynor.

Seniors are not the only students who had difficulties with their schedules. Sophomore Emily Johnson's classes were too full, so some students had to be switched to different periods. As a result, she lost her two favorite teachers. "Just as you start to settle in with the schedule for the year, you are plucked out of that setting and everything is changed around with new teachers and new classes," says Johnson.

Junior Maital Guttman was signed up for Hebrew, but it was canceled, leaving her with a choice of classes that were not right for her. The classes that she wanted to take were full, which did not leave her with many options. She was also in the overloaded Physics class. "It was fun being with all those people, but I don't think it would have worked well for the whole year. I'm sure it was very hard on Mr. Griffin to have that many people in one class," says Guttman.

Both Mr. Griffin and Mrs. White agree that the counselors worked hard and did their best with what they had to work with. "What few students realize is that we really try to have as few changes as possible," says Mr. Griffin. Mrs. White hopes that next year the teachers will play a larger role in looking for scheduling conflicts. "Maybe we could look at a master schedule before any students are assigned to classes," says Mrs. White.

Mrs. Barbee thinks that preparing for next year's schedule will be difficult. "To the extent that we can control (the process) we can prepare for it. However, we can't know until ten days into the school year how many teachers we will receive," says Mrs. Barbee. She does think that the designated days for each grade to come in with schedule conflicts helps the counselors out a lot. This way students can receive individual attention before school starts.

"It's been a tough beginning of the year," says Mrs. White.

◆ This issue of the *High Life* is dedicated to Mrs. Teague, who so generously supplied the staff with eight brand new computers, without which it would be impossible to publish the paper. We thank her for recognizing the *High Life* as a vital part of student life at Grimsley.

## New lot: Not exactly Park Place

By Kate Boylan  
Reporter

The senior parking lot is now one of the many perks of being a senior at Grimsley, though it does have flaws that the administrators are working on for next year.

There are 315 seniors and only 135 senior parking spaces. The cost of a parking permit for seniors who park in the senior parking lot is \$15.00. However, because \$11.00 dollars of the cost of each space will go towards the senior class gift, the cost of the parking permits for seniors who park in the regular parking lot is also \$15.00.

Some seniors are also losing their places to visitors who do not know that the numbered

spaces are for student parking. "I think that the parking lot is a great idea, but they need to tell the parents that the numbered spaces are for students," says Becky Peterson, a senior.

Although the senior parking lot has its flaws right now, moves are being made to improve the situation.

The first few rows in the upper parking lot will soon be turned into an extension of the senior parking lot. Other ideas are also being considered for next year, such as a lottery for the senior spaces.

Although Mrs. Teague must help direct traffic after school and the area is congested at 3:30, she is pleased with the additional lot. "It's wonderful, but not perfect," says Mrs. Teague.



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