

Out of the Blue

The Grimsley Choral Department will host a Choral Coffee house on February 11. Members of the Choral Department and other Grimsley students will present their work from 7-10 pm on the second floor of the Music Building. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$1.00. Food and coffee will also be sold.

The American Choral Directors Association selected the Gold Madrigals to be one of the only two high schools in the 11-state southern division to perform at the Association's Convention March 1-4 in Orlando. Five members of the Silver Madrigals were also selected to sing in the ACDA's Honor Choir.

The Grimsley Knowledge Masters team placed 69th in the world out of 1064 schools and second in North Carolina. Only the North Carolina School of Science and Math placed ahead of them. On January 8, Grimsley's Brain Game team competed in a preliminary round of competition and placed in the Brain Game semi-finals, scheduled for mid-April.

The annual TWIRP dance is scheduled for Saturday, February 12. It will be held at Bur-Mil Park, the cost is \$15 per person, and the dress is semi-formal. This year's theme is "What a Girl Wants." Student council members will sell tickets before and after school and during both lunches in the main hall from February 7-11. No tickets will be available at the door.

February 3 is Recommendation Day, during which teachers will make course recommendations for the 2000-2001 school year. Parents must sign the form by February 8, or else the student will be enrolled in the courses for which s/he was recommended. Counselors will begin meeting with students individually about final course selections on February 21.

Seniors will begin placing orders for caps and gowns during the week of February 15. A sales representative will be on campus on February 15 for an informational meeting for seniors and their parents.

The Grimsley Orchestra will perform on February 19 at 7:00 pm with Greensboro College. They will also perform with the Kiser Orchestra in the Grimsley Auditorium on March 7 at 7:30pm.

Students reap benefits of combined curriculum

By Lauren Marker
Reporter

This year Grimsley is offering a new program that combines three seemingly unrelated subjects into an integrated curriculum that makes the topics more easily understood. This program is called Jam On It→Integration.

This program involves second year students at Grimsley whose teachers feel that they would thrive in this type of environment. The program combines English 10, World History, and Computer Applications through an integrated curriculum.

Students have to be recommended for the program, and they must have shown someone, somewhere that they want to do better in school.

Mrs. Teague came up with the idea to use Jam On It→Integration at Grimsley and explained the program to teachers. Mr. Ralston, Mr. Sparks, and Mrs. Ward decided to become involved. They use a team-teaching approach that combines individual curriculums, making each lesson coherent, consistent, meaningful, and relevant for all students



Sophomores Quentin Austin and Jason Crouch work on a project during Mr. Sparks's English class, which is part of Jam On It.

involved. The teachers, who meet once per week and have the same planning period, share common rules, disciplinary measures, procedures, and grading scale.

Planning activities, lessons,

and projects is also a collective effort. For example, while Mr. Ralston, a World History teacher, teaches about ancient Rome, Mr. Sparks, an English teacher, has his class read *Julius Caesar*, and

with Ms. Ward in Computer Applications, the students make travel brochures about ancient Rome. Mrs. Ward said, "Everyone needs a skill they can be proud of, and computers are definitely a part of our future."

Both the students and the teachers involved are reaping the rewards of this program by seeing positive results. "I love this program. It is doing so much for me and my work," says sophomore, Jamar Hargraves. Latasha Richmond, also a sophomore, says, "I hope the program will show me how to work with others and take pride in what I do and be good at it."

Mr. Sparks says, "I'm definitely seeing the benefits of understanding between English and History." Mr. Ralston says, "I think it's working well. The students involved have improved their grades in almost every class that they are taking."

For the teachers, Jam On It→Integration is a lot of work. "You have to be flexible. You must give up certain activities so you can integrate the curriculum better," says Mrs. Ward. "It takes up more time for us, but it is time well spent," says Mr. Sparks.

State prioritizes science curriculum

By Lauren Marker
Reporter

Science classes will be a bit different next year at Grimsley and at schools all over the state, for that matter.

Next year, physical science, biology, and chemistry classes will have new books and a new curriculum. The state will send the teachers of these classes new curriculums that prioritize which topics need to be hit the hardest in each subject.

There are three levels of prioritization. The most important topics, the "essential" topics, will be taught in greater depth, with more time spent on them.

With this prioritization program, all the teachers of these science classes will be on the same page of whichever topics the state considers the most important. This way, the students will be more focused on the End Of Course test because they will have studied the essential topics thoroughly.

Even though the teachers will spend the same amount of time on the same topics, they do not necessarily have to teach them in the same sequence.

In the past, each teacher would come up with his or her own plan with how much time was to be spent on each topic. This was hard on new teachers who had not had experience preparing students for the EOC. Now, these teachers will have a guide as to how much time to allot for each topic.

One should not assume,

however, that science teachers will now use pre-made lesson plans. "The only thing that the prioritization program says is what material should be covered. It does not tell you how or how much to teach. As a teacher, you must decide whether you will just teach a concept or put math with it," says Ms. Keele, a Chemistry teacher.

This may change the content of these classes since more time will be spent on main objectives and less time on lesser topics. Ms. Keele says, "I think this is a good thing. I appreciate the state showing what is important to teach. I only have 180 days to teach the information, so this will be helpful." This will also be helpful to students who only have 180 days to learn it.

EOC tutoring

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This money will go towards after-school tutorials for students who have scored poorly in the past. The faculty held a meeting in December to inform these students.

Students at Grimsley have various opinions on this subject. Efuwa Boaduah, a sophomore, is for this proposal. She says, "I think this is a good proposal because

I'm tired of those people in my classes who don't do their work and still get by."

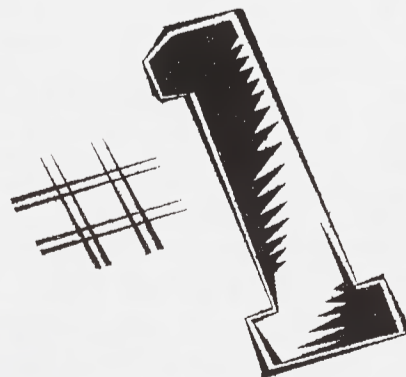
Other students at Grimsley are against this proposal because of the possibility of its determining if they earn credit for the course. Chris Stricklen, a junior, says, "How can one test prove what you have learned all year?" Latesha Conyers, a sophomore, says, "The EOC test should not constitute the failing of a student."



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AMY R. PARSONS CPA, PA

POST OFFICE BOX 428
4722 PLEASANT GARDEN ROAD
PLEASANT GARDEN, NC 27313
PHONE: (336) 674-7152



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