

New administrator takes his place among Whirlies

By Kate Boylan
Reporter

He can be found walking through the 13 buildings on campus. He is 6'3. Usually clothed in a shirt and tie. Who is he? He is Mr. Odom, our new assistant principal.

Mr. Odom was born and raised in Hickory, North Carolina. He attended Livingston College in Asheville, North Carolina for his undergraduate degree where he played football all four years and was captain of the football team his senior year. He then attended graduate school at Iowa State in Ames Iowa. One of his fondest memories of Iowa State, "is the porkchops. They are like steak," he said.

Mr. Odom has spent 19 years in the education field, during which he has been a teacher and a principal at many different schools. Before coming to Grimsley, Mr. Odom previously worked at Smith High School for three years, High Point Central

for one year, and taught in Lynchburg, Virginia for fourteen years. Although Mr. Odom enjoys living here, he has fond memories

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-Mr. Odom

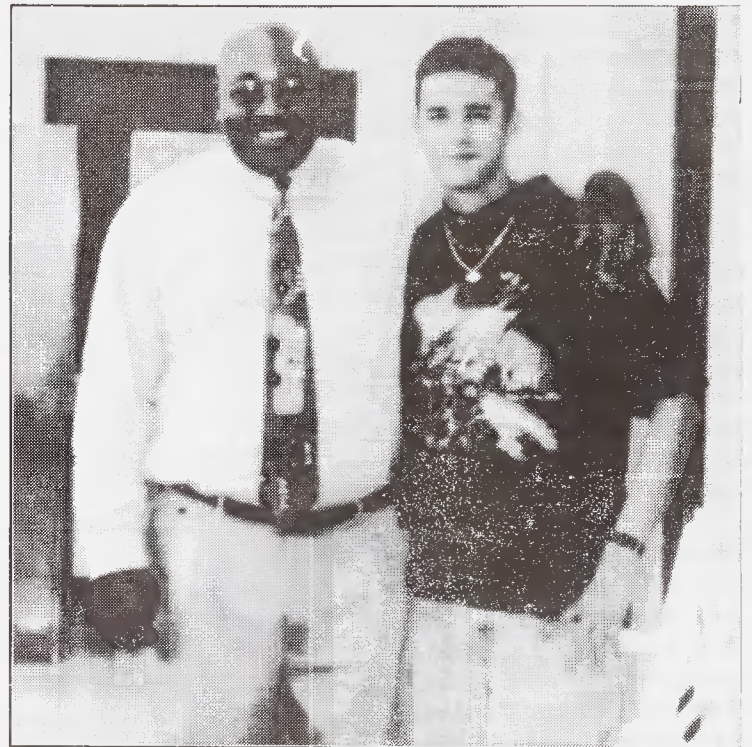
of living in Lynchburg, where he lived not far from one of Thomas Jefferson's summer homes. Mr. Odom now lives in Jamestown with his wife Valusha, and their two children, George Allen and Valusha

Ashley.

In his brief time at Grimsley, Mr. Odom has made many friends and made it a goal to get to know the student body. Mr. Odom said that Grimsley "as a school speaks for itself" and that he is impressed with the student body's respect for the faculty and the school, the faculty, the school program, and Ms. Teague.

When Mr. Odom is not working in his office or walking the halls, he is usually at football games or other school athletic events. "We need to have more student support for the athletic teams; students still need to have school and team spirit no matter what," he said. Mr. Odom would like to bring more school spirit and school pride to Grimsley because he believes school spirit illustrates school pride.

The 6'3" man walking the halls is not an undercover agent; he is our new assistant principal Mr. Odom.



Bruner photo

Mr. Odom, the new assistant principal, brings fresh ideas and energy to the 2000/2001 Grimsley administration staff.

Kernodle Middle: New school on the horizon

By Dirk Lankford
Reporter

140,000 square feet and 18 million dollars later, Guilford County opens a new chapter in better learning.

The new institution is Kernodle Middle School. This is Guilford County's 97th school and the only new county school opening this fall.

The school shares a relationship with certain members of our own school. It was named after John Kernodle Sr., who is the late father of a fellow Whirlie, John Kernodle Jr. Also, the principal of this new school, Mr. Steve Teague, is the husband of our own Mrs. Teague.

The Guilford County Commissioners spared no expense in the creation of this new middle school, spending 18 million dollars, clearing out 39 acres of land and taking 15 months to build. "I think anytime there is need for a new facility, it is always worth it to the taxpayers, even if they don't have children," said John

Kernodle Jr., a senior.

However, the honor of having a school named after his father may come off as somewhat bittersweet to Kernodle, Jr., having lost his dad in a car accident five years ago. "I was impressed with the amount of work put into the school. It was very admirable, just like the work of my father," said Kernodle, Jr.

The school has a staff of 72; 55 of those are teachers. These teachers instruct a student body of an estimated 820 students. However, the school has a capacity to hold 875 students.

The location when planning for the new school was difficult to acquire. First, Horse Pen Creek Road was suggested, but then rejected because of the noise given off by the nearby airport. Second, Fleming Road was suggested, but ruled out because the City Council would have to condemn the land of an elderly woman in order to make room for the school.

Finally, it was decided that Guilford County Commission-

ers would sell 39 acres along Horse Pen Creek Road to the school board, therefore moving the school away from the road and the airport noise. The school's official address is 3600 Drawbridge Parkway.

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-John Kernodle Jr., senior

The school is up and operational and in the long run, all the time and money put into Kernodle Middle School will pay off for a greater good.



Guilford County Schools photo

Jonh Kernodle III stands beside a portrait of his late father, John Kernodle II at the dedication of Kernodle Middle School.

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