

Grimsley's hard work earns "Distinction"

By Sara Nelson
Reporter

Remember how each student worked all of last year to prepare for a single multiple choice test administered in June that would count 25% of his yearly grade? He diligently did his homework every night, studied for all of his tests and attended those "extra special" EOC review sessions after school.

He might have fretted for hours about EOCs, or not have given any thought to them at all. Regardless, everyone's hard work last year has paid off. For the third year in a row, Grimsley has been named among the ten most improved high schools in North Carolina, and this year, for the first time, Grimsley has been named a School of Distinction. Because of this recognition, all teachers will receive a \$1500 bonus.

All of this is part of the state's ABC program, enacted three years ago, to ensure that all students are learning what they are supposed to in each grade level.

In order to qualify for recognition as a School of Distinction, a school must have 80% of its stu-

dents perform at level three or four on EOCs. Levels three and four indicate that students are working at or above proficiency standards set by the state in each subject.

Another criteria for the School of Excellence recognition is that a school must achieve either expected or exemplary growth. These growth standards are also set by the state, and they compare a student's 8th grade EOG scores with his or her 10th grade competency test scores to see that he or she has shown growth and gained appropriate knowledge in the first two years of high school.

In order to achieve appropriate growth to achieve appropriate last year's EOCs, teachers adhered tightly to the Standard Course of Study set by the state in each subject area. They also provided special EOC tutoring sessions after school and practice EOC's were given at least once in each subject area. "In the first month of the school year, we give a pre-EOC test. In February, we administer the same test. We compare the February and September scores and look for growth. We can determine which students have accomplished the various goals. Any students who have not progressed as expected

get after-school tutoring on the goals and objectives they have yet to achieve," said Ms. Enright, an ELPSA teacher.

This method of preparation obviously worked. Grimsley has met the state's growth goals for the third year in a row. "It [the recognition] definitely should make everyone proud," said Ms. Rohan, a

math teacher. "The combination of excellence with growth means kids work hard and learn what they are supposed to."

Despite this recognition, teachers and students have their work cut out for them this year. In order to keep being recognized as a top performer, Grimsley must continue to show growth. Since the achieve-

ment levels are so high already, this could be difficult. Mr. Conaway, who teaches ELPSA, believes that the best way to keep growing is to "continue doing what we are doing."

Recognitions such as these help to bring prestige to Grimsley and to show students and teachers that hard work really does pay off.



Weeks photo
Mr. Dalton helps Candice Leatherberry, a senior, work through a problem in his 3rd period Algebra 3 class. The math department was key in helping raise EOC scores.

Heightened security takes toll on nation

By Margaret Hair
Reporter

National guard officers stand by, lines stretch on for hours, passengers are being frisked as they pass through the metal detectors, and police abound. This has been the routine at New York's LaGuardia Airport since the recent terrorist attacks.

The airline industry has been heavily impacted by a demand for increased security due to the events of September 11th. At LaGuardia as well as all other airports around the nation, measures have been taken to increase the safety of passengers and employees.

Laura Granfortuna, a junior, recently traveled to New York

through LaGuardia, and said, "The only change in security was that there was a woman on the other side of the metal detector that frisked you after going through. Also, the person operating the baggage x-ray machine took more time checking the bags."

Similar measures have been taken at Greensboro's own Piedmont Triad International airport. Passengers at PTI arrive at the airport to find restricted parking, the lack of curbside check-in, long lines and more security travelers. It is also requested that travelers get there in plenty of time to accommodate the new policies.

Two months ago, it was possible to arrive at the airport a little less than an hour before a flight, and still get to the plane on time. Those days are no more. Now, it is necessary for passengers to arrive a significant amount of time before their scheduled departure. Stephanie Justice, a junior who has been affected by this new policy, said, "When I bought my ticket to go to New York, they told me that I have to be there 3 hours ahead of time instead of my usual hour and a half."

Aside from increased security in airports, government agencies, and officials at entertainment and sporting events have established their own beefed up security policies. These measures range from more police at football games to more police at border security put into place by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Senior Matt Dennis experienced the effects of heightened security recently, saying, "I went to the Wake Forest/NC State game, and there were long lines to get in because everyone's bags had to be checked. But it really wasn't much of an inconvenience, since it made me feel safer about going in."

On the more national end of the heightened security scale, several government agencies have taken measures to increase the safety of the American people. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency is consulting with industrial facilities concerning security, and several federal law enforcement groups are in contact with various industries in which security is important.

Security concerns also come

back to Grimsley, with some worried about the safety of students. Arden Jones, a junior, points out that the decision about this year's band trip was delayed because of security matters. She said, "Due to the horrible incident on September 11th many people are worried about their loved ones traveling, despite the attempt at increasing security in airports."

Heightened security measures and new policies have impacted the daily routines of many throughout the nation. As officials everywhere scramble to make us feel safer, the American people are taking a step back and trying to be understanding for the sake of security.

"When I bought my ticket, they told me I would have to be there about 3 hours ahead of time, instead of my usual hour and a half."

-Stephanie Justice,
junior



Weeks photo

At Piedmont Triad International airport, unticketed passengers are no longer allowed to pass through the metal detectors. Changes like these are due to the recent terrorism.

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