

ESL students bring new challenges, rewards

Helping students for whom English is not a first language proves a worthy challenge for many teachers.

By Chris Izzard
Reporter

With the rising number of students in the English Second Language (ESL) program, the North Carolina School system has passed more legislation to help these students perform better in school.

Teachers now have resource guides to help them educate ESL students using the same curriculum they use with other classes. ESL teachers must also test their students often and to categorize them based on the results. Guilford County Schools have implemented these regulations in hopes of reducing the need for interpreters.

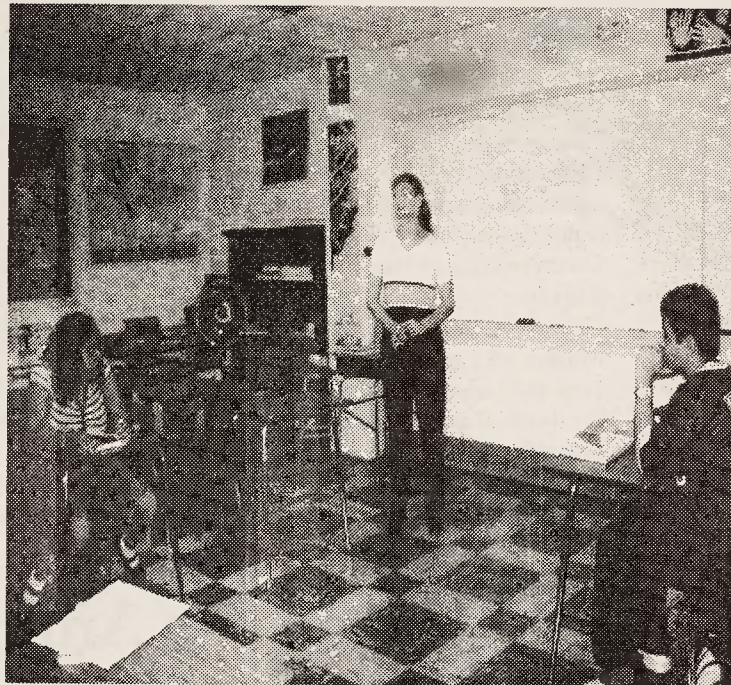
Rankin Elementary School used an interpreter for a number of students from April 26 to June 2, which cost the school system \$3,850. By hiring new ESL teachers, the school system hopes to help students who speak Spanish,

Vietnamese, Arabic, Danish, Korean, and Japanese.

"The way that we have set up here at Grimsley is with four different levels of learning for our students," said ESL teacher Ms. Patty Tiska.

By being divided into basic, low and high intermediate, and advanced ESL, the students learn English through a gradual yet rigorous process. The Idea Proficiency Test, also known as the IPT, examines whether or not a student is ready to advance to the next level. The test itself consists of three parts: reading, writing, and oral. The latter is conducted in "interview" format.

Even though the legislation



ESL teacher Patty Tiska works with ESL students in her classroom in the Vocational building one period each school day.

requires curriculum instruction to be more ESL-friendly, the teachers do have fun while doing their jobs.

"Getting into the job gave me the chance to travel, and eventually I learned to love language. After college I saw the need for people to understand each other internationally," said ESL

teacher Mr. Paul Egan.

Two Grimsley students lend a helping hand to the ESL students. Seniors Morgan Radford and Rachael Kreigsman assist the students in various levels of instruction.

"[Radford and Kriegsman] are really helpful because they know what it's like to learn another language, so they connect with the students a little," said Tiska.

The teachers' resource guides offers ways to help improve English reading comprehension by adding video and audio resources to the reading and requiring bilingual dictionaries to be available in the classroom. The guide also presents

different teaching strategies for other academic subjects as well, such as chemistry and world history.

Internet sources have also become a tool for ESL students and teachers alike. Keypals, penpals who communicate via the Internet, also help ESL students advance their English knowledge with students from different countries. Dave's ESL Café, another online resource, provides a wide range of quizzes, forums, idioms, and chat rooms for teachers.

"It is a challenging class for students. Helping them learn academic English after conversational English is hard," said Egan.

ESL students speaking different languages all attend class together and find ways to interact with each in English or in their own languages.

"Teaching ESL is a job that I love. I love the fact that I get to interact with international students," said Tiska.

With the legislation, teachers now have more support for instructing their students, regardless of what language they speak.

Increased enrollment sparks improvement plans

With a growing student body, GTCC prepares to expand its campuses and facilities.

By Shimère Etheridge
Reporter

As the population of Guilford County grows, a fifty-year-old landmark aims to expand within the local community. Guilford Technical Community College has experienced a tremendous rise in enrollment over the past few years due to the school's increasing appeal.

In 2000, GTCC received Higher Education bonds from both the state and the county, thus experiencing significant capital growth on the Guilford Tech campuses. This money funded the Entertainment

Technology building that opened in January 2004 on the High Point campus. The 66,000 square-foot building houses the Larry Gatlin School of Entertainment Technology as well as several other major programs. The physical features include six soundproof recording studios, a 250-seat auditorium, a 500-seat amphitheatre, a library, TV and performance stages, ensemble rehearsal spaces, and several computer labs.

Greensboro's campus of Guilford Tech likewise expects great change. The new campus, located on E. Wendover Ave., recently held a large groundbreaking ceremony. This site will allow the college to reach residents of Guilford County who have been underserved in previous

years. Replacing the current Washington Street and J.C. Price locations, the 44-acre campus will house a Technical Education Center, an Adult Education Center, a Continuing Education Center, and an energy plant for the campus. Industrial, Construction, and Engineering Technology Programs, Basic Skills Programs, and Continuing Education Programs for the Greensboro area will also be located on this campus.

Lastly, the Mary Perry Ragsdale Family YMCA has an agreement with the Jamestown campus of GTCC to house the Wellness Center faculty and staff and to provide students with a location to take many of the physical education classes. The Ragsdale YMCA is

a 65,000 square-foot facility that includes an indoor pool, a complete fitness room, an aerobics studio, two basketball courts, and a soccer/baseball field.

Counselors are strongly encouraging students to take advantage of these new opportunities. Counselor Suzanne Weaver believes these improvements offer many occasions for students to excel, especially "students interested in pursuing technical careers or skilled trades, those who cannot financially afford to attend a four year school, and those who need time to bring up their GPA before moving on to a college or university."

Students appear to be responding well to this advice. "I am very excited about the

changes taking place at GTCC because I know that I will be able to benefit from them," said senior Sarah Oakley.

"Guilford Tech is the right place for me because I need to get more qualifications in preparation to move on to a more prestigious school in the future. Hopefully, the advancements taking place at Guilford Tech will enable the school to become more popular and more competitive by improving its reputation."

North Carolina provides most of the funding for GTCC; however, building construction and maintenance are a county obligation, and drastic changes are still needed.

"Training for tomorrow's

Continued on Page 2

Featured

Inside

Obligatory Service

One writer questions how far away a draft really is, in spite of President Bush's promises.

Page 3

Fall Fashion

Body art and ballet flats dance into this season's must have looks.

Page 7

Poker: A New Sport

Texas Hold'em's reputation grows as celebrities flock to the card tables.

Page 11

News.....	1
Opinion.....	3
Features.....	4
Sports.....	11