

Counselors, teachers work on schedules to accommodate curriculum changes

BY KAT ELLIOTT
Photographer

As students plunge into second semester, administration and counselors already have their focus on scheduling for the 2011-2012 school term. Students often find the procedure tedious since they must make decisions regarding various available academic paths, which include College Prep, College Tech Prep, Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) options. Determining what fits each student best depends upon their future intentions: the workforce, college, or the military. Once teachers make recommendations, and parents and students sign the necessary forms, the counselors must battle the computer to make a feasible master schedule that will accommodate the majority of students in classes with numbers conducive to a learning environment. With approximately 1800 students to filter through the process, the task is more complex than most can fathom.

"On average, schedules must be run six to eight times before the overall percentage reaches about 85% of the total student body being placed. Once that is finished, counselors can take a look and sometimes make adjustments

to complete individual schedules. That usually gets us up to 90-95%," said counselor and registration coordinator Michael Harrington. "Second and third alternate electives then come into play. Finally, any students who still have incomplete schedules visit the office, and the counselors help them find suitable placements."

Incoming freshmen classes will serve as guinea pigs of the decade because several changes will occur in the curriculum.

"US History will become a two-year course because legislators believe there is too much material to be acknowledged in one year," said social studies teacher Joel Darden.

Another change involves the process for becoming an IB Candidate. In the past, only students who lived out of district had to apply for candidacy, whereas now, all interested students, including those already attending Grimsley, must apply to enter the program.

Along with freshmen, upperclassmen will also note changes in the curriculum. AP and IB teachers are making minor adjustments to their syllabi in IB Foreign Languages and English, as well as AP French and AP World History, based upon expectations from IBO (International Baccalaureate Or-

ganization) and College Board, respectively. AP students are still pondering over why they must pay for their exams when the IB students do not.

"The county still funds the IB program entirely, though the budget crisis may force the board to rethink that issue," said IB/AP Coordinator Dibrele Tourret.

Freshmen tend to share mixed feelings regarding their upcoming sophomore year while they are still acclimating to high school life. Some are eager to see what new academic challenges they will encounter other than gym or typical freshman courses.

"I am really looking forward to taking AP European History because I love to learn about the different parts of the world and their history; I have always been interested in history and have always looked forward to learning about different cultures and how people live," said freshman Eric Rahn. "I'm also looking forward to my chemistry class because I have a great interest in all sciences and can't wait to learn about the elements and the amazing things that make up our world. I'm pretty nervous about my math next year, though, because I am definitely not very strong in math. I'm still hoping that I will enjoy it and have a good time learning."

Sophomores are beginning to feel the anxiety due to the thought of multiple, difficult courses they will be required to take next year, including that mandatory Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Even so, some expressed that they are ready for the challenge.

"What I look forward to most next year is IB Theatre Arts. I'm also excited about Theory of Knowledge and Spanish V since a lot of my friends are in that class now. I'm pretty nervous about IB English 11, AP US History, and Calculus," said sophomore Aaron Ashby.

Juniors cannot help but admit they are excited about becoming seniors, especially with the realization that the stress of their junior courses is soon to end. Many of these same students look forward to courses considered most popular for those in the graduating class.

"I'm considering taking sociology next year with Coach Franks. I am on the golf team, and I've never met anyone so energetic. Being in his class will be a blast," said junior Meredith Greene.

New courses hoping to survive the scheduling process next year are Game Design and Creative Writing. Their availability depends upon how many students sign up for them and the availability of teachers to cover them.

Students win free movie passes

BY NIKI SHUMAKER
Reporter

As a reward for completing midterm exams, students received free tickets to see "The Social Network" at the Carousel Cinema on Battleground Avenue. On Sunday, February 20, three show times were available to accommodate the large number of students attending. Freshmen and half of the sophomores viewed the show at 5:00 pm; the second half of the sophomores and juniors saw the movie at 7:15 pm; and the seniors enjoyed the movie at 9:30 pm.

Carousel Theatre sponsored a contest among elementary, middle, and high schools. During the week of November 19-26, students purchasing

tickets for the latest "Harry Potter" film turned in vouchers they received from their own schools. The school represented with the highest number turned in would be rewarded a free movie day, and the Whirlies won.

"I'm not surprised we won since our students are the 'Harry Potter' generation, and besides, we are so close to the theatre," said media specialist Kate Cummings, who publicized the event at school and distributed the vouchers through homerooms on Wednesday, February 16.

Teachers were also invited to the 9:30 pm show for a reduced price of \$5.00 per ticket, but everyone in attendance enjoyed the three dollar snack special of popcorn and a drink.

**Congratulations are in order!
Best of Luck to Principal Anna
Brady, who has been chosen
as one of eight principals in
the running for the 2011
Wachovia/Wells Fargo North
Carolina Principal of the Year!**



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