

Teaching freshmen, sophomores, Jordan Daniels joins English department

BY CAROLINE GRANDIS
Reporter

New teacher Jordan Daniels joined the staff when English teacher Christina Purgason assumed the role of AP/IB Coordinator. He teaches ninth and tenth grade English, both College Prep and Honors levels. As a first-year teacher, he has a mentor, English teacher Jennifer Wilson, and he attends new monthly meetings with other new teachers through a program English/journalism teacher Lynn Rozelman supervises.

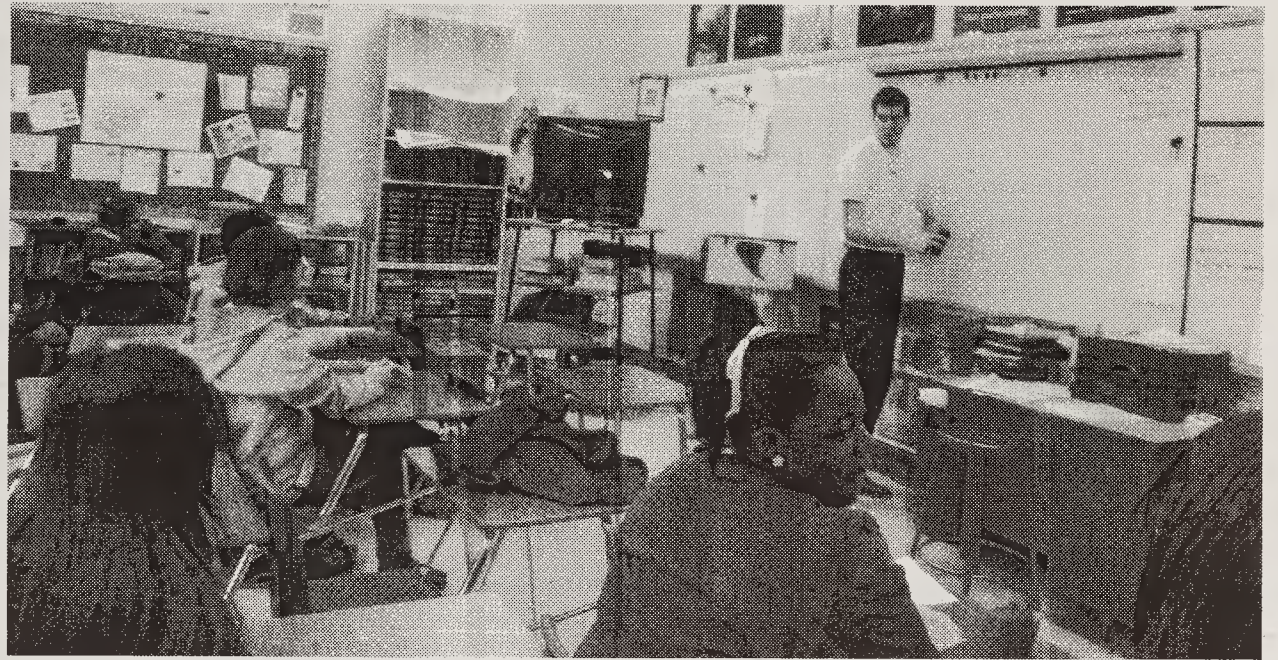
"It has been a pleasure working with Mr. Daniels. He is a breath of fresh air to our department," said Wilson. "I look forward to reading some of his writing soon to be published."

Born in Brevard, North Carolina, Daniels was raised in a family of teachers. He spent

most of his time enjoying Pisgah National Forest. He also lived for some time in Moose Pass, Alaska, where he worked as a cook at a lodge just for fun. Some of Daniels' best childhood memories were playing basketball with his only brother, who was older, and also reading books with his grandmother.

"I enjoy collecting vinyl records and sports memorabilia, and I am a real sports buff," said Daniels. "I especially enjoy tennis, basketball, cross country, and golf."

Interestingly enough, Daniels admits he was a better math student than English student, but he never found it as interesting. During his sophomore year of college, he enrolled in a couple of English Education classes and found them so compelling that he added Secondary Education as a



Rookie teacher Jordan Daniels teaches a tenth grade class about *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. Daniels kept the class attentive by remaining interactive with them. Jenkins photo.

concentration. Despite the numerous classes in which he studied literature, he was never bored.

Daniels graduated in 2010 from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a Bachelor of Arts in English

Education as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. He described his first days as a Whirlie staff member as quite rewarding.

"All of the challenges that each day brings have only reinforced my desire to pursue a career

in education, although it is a tiring job," said Daniels. "The student body impresses me by its amazing diversity."

Daniels' only disappointment thus far is that he has not yet been able to attend any sport-

ing events but is looking to remedy that situation during basketball season. Even though his journey has just begun, Daniels looks forward to the professional growth he can achieve through his teaching career.

School communities across Guilford County await new campus improvements

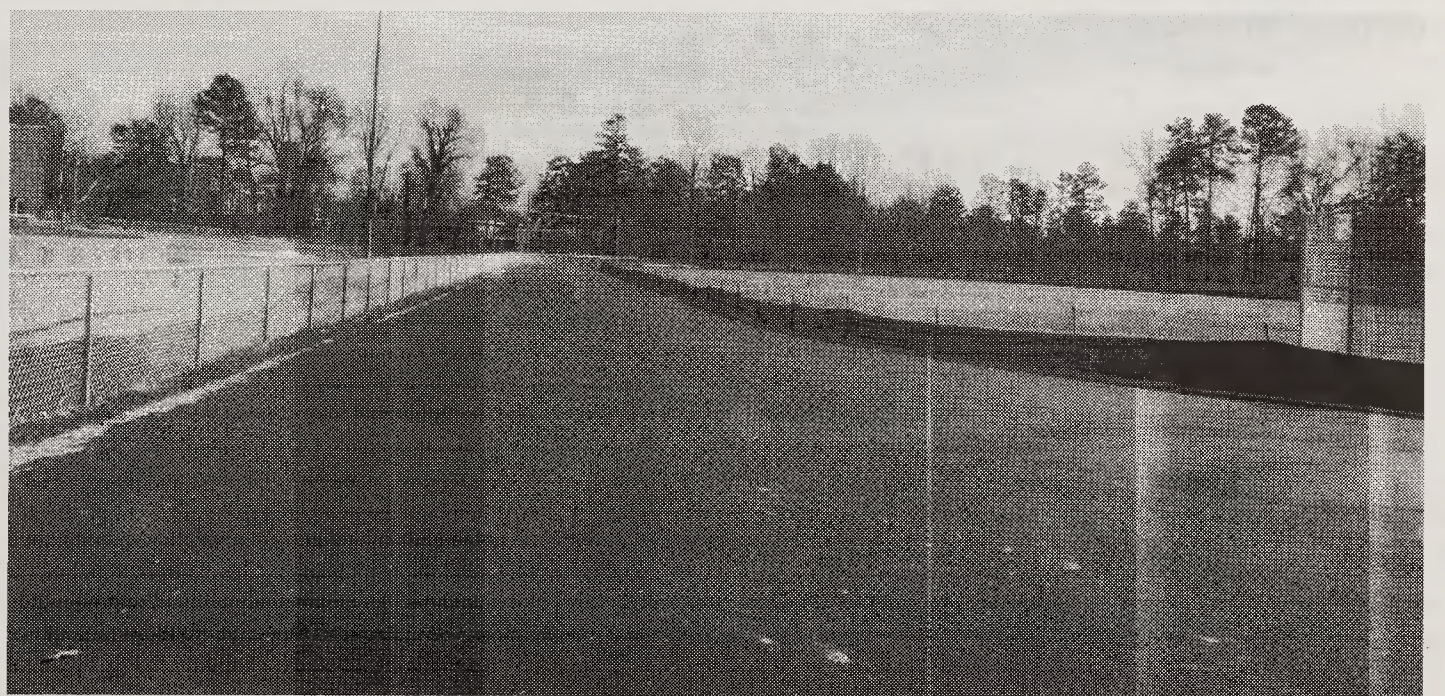
BY CLAY MILLSAPS
Reporter

Guilford County Schools is in the midst of construction on several sites. New classrooms, athletic fields, and even new buildings will soon be available for student and teacher use.

On the Whirlie campus, the track inside Jamieson Stadium will be replaced by a newer one by the tennis courts adjacent to Benjamin Parkway. The current track is rather old, so it has been deteriorating for quite some time. The new track's design will also make it more public since it will no longer be inside the stadium. In addition to the new track, a new cafeteria building will soon be under construction, which will hold more students than the one in use now. With more seating, students will no longer have to eat in the main hall when it is raining or extremely cold outside. Its location will be between Home Ec. and NewScience

Foundation and framing has begun at the site of the district's newest elementary school, Ronald E. McNair Elementary. The new building, which is scheduled to open in time for the 2012-2013 school year, will provide space for educating about 700 students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

At Southwest High, the recently built new media center and classroom wing are already in use. The new classroom wing services an additional 560 students. The school's auxiliary gym awaits finishing touches,



Behind the pool and tennis courts, the new track is located where the old softball field once stood. Students, teachers, and members of the community looked forward to using the newly built track that replaced the old one within the football stadium. Jenkins photo.

and progress continues on new tennis courts as well. Earlier this month, the Board of Education approved the naming of the Southwest High gym on behalf of James C. Coggins, a longtime teacher and wrestling coach.

Window frame installation is complete, and windows are being installed in the new auxiliary gym of Allen Middle. These improvements will make the building more energy efficient compared to its prior state.

Overhead mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-ins are nearing completion status. Painting, interior wall and ceramic tile installations are also underway throughout the building.

Members of the Ragsdale High community are also pleased that construction is well underway on the "link" building, which will join the existing campus with the former Jamestown Middle building. Earlier this summer, Jamestown Middle was converted into offices and ninth-grade classroom

space. Parking additions will be included in the project as well.

McLeansville Elementary recently acquired a new roof to it addition. The new building which will blend with a portion of the existing media center, can house a newer media center along with six additional classrooms.

Site preparation has begun at Dudley High, where the football field will have a new look next year. Work includes a new field house and seating on both the home and visitor sides of the stadium.