

School Of The Arts' Main Purpose Is To Serve The Disadvantaged Students

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

There is no greater reward than bringing out a child's unique talent. However, children can only recognize their interests or abilities if they are exposed to or have access to artistic channels.

The Community School of the Arts is just the place for a child to discover where his or her talent lies. The school, located at 200 W. Trade Street in the First Presbyterian Church, is a non-profit arts school offering lessons in all instruments of the band and orchestra, classes in visual arts, dance and many programs in music and arts appreciation.

Its main purpose is to serve disadvantaged students who, due to

financial circumstances, would not be able to afford expensive art lessons. The Community School of the Arts brings the arts to low income students since all fees are based on a sliding scale dependent upon the family income and number of persons in the student's family. Regardless of the individual's ability to pay, the mission of the school is to provide the best in arts education for any interested person.

With the inception a distinct program, "A Very Special Arts Program," the school also reaches mentally retarded, learning disabled, visually, hearing and physically impaired individuals through arts appreciation. Susan Miller, Music Therapist, works with special persons in this program designed to

enhance their developmental skills through music activities.

"The music is used as a communicative skill," explains Miller. "The instructions in music are adapted to meet their needs or way of learning."

In one instance, Miller elaborates, she works with groups of handicapped children involving the students in playing rhythm instruments together. She uses popular contemporary music with uncomplicated rhythms of which the children are familiar such as Michael Jackson or Van Halen. Many different elements are incorporated in the music routines: movement, drama, and singing. "The objective is not necessarily to teach the special child to play an instrument or to sing. We

are concerned with the child interacting with music to broaden his or her goals," Miller maintains.

"For example, deaf students can develop a sense of rhythm playing percussion instruments in a group," tells the music therapist. "The quality of rhythm in music goes past hearing."

Additional abilities that can be brought out through the special person's participation in music therapy are flexibility, eye-hand coordination, increased concentration and cognitive skills: sequence, span and categorizing.

At a parent's request the student may go on with individual lessons in music therapy. Again, finance is no object. All students who qualify for reduced fees are considered "scholarship students."

larship students."

"Our wish is that all students, handicapped or normal, continue to enjoy music and have success in the experience," interjects Paul Herbert, Associate Director of the Community School.

The Community School of the Arts is now accepting registration for its fall 1984-85 school year. The school

will be offering a comprehensive array of music, visual arts and dance classes and lessons for beginning and advanced level students. Both pre-school through adult age students may participate. To register, simply call 377-4187 weekdays. All classes and lessons are scheduled on a first-come, first-served waiting list basis.

A Year of the
BEST NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT
Can Be Yours.
Call... 376-0496

BEFORE THE VOTES ARE CAST IN THIS FALL'S ELECTIONS, WE'D LIKE TO ANNOUNCE A WINNER.

Picking on the power company is standard operating procedure for some folks, particularly in election years. And we certainly don't deny people the right to express their minds. But we'd like to say a few words about our operating procedure. One of our primary goals has always been to generate electricity as efficiently and economically as possible. And we're doing pretty well at it.

A few weeks ago, we won a first place award for producing electricity more efficiently than any

other power company in the United States.

We've won that award six times now. That's quite an achievement. But the real winner isn't us. It's you.

If we had operated at the average efficiency level of all the other power companies, it would have cost our customers nearly \$72 million more last year alone.

We know electricity isn't cheap. But you need to know that we're continually working very hard on your behalf. Not just during election years.

DUKE POWER