

Central: Old School With New Ideas

(ED. NOTE: During the remainder of the school year, a different school in the Kings Mountain District will be spotlighted in a series of monthly articles submitted by the Kings Mountain Association of Educators. Today's feature is on Central Middle School.)

By GRACE COSTNER
Central Teacher

On September 21, approximately 500 people packed the auditorium of Central School, waiting eagerly to find out more about the educational program that awaited their sixth and seventh grade children during the 1982-83 school year. It was a record crowd. As the evening proceeded the parents learned a great deal about what goes on behind the doors of Central School.

Having attended Central when it was a high school, many parents were surprised to see how up-to-date the building had been kept. During the spring and summer of this year, fresh paint and badly needed carpet improved the already air-conditioned classrooms. The daily upkeep of an old building is no easy job, but Central is fortunate to have an excellent custodial staff to tend to these needs.

Central's first priority is to the education of its students. This year, much emphasis has been placed on the reading program. Money has been provided over the years through Title I to provide a reading lab to meet particular students' needs. This year the reading lab teacher is working jointly with the classroom

teacher to include twice as many students in this program than was possible before. Along with the new reading program that has been initiated at Central and a new Tachomatic machine, Central's students are receiving intensive instruction in reading.

The math program at Central is also looking great for this year. Last year, teachers were able to purchase math kits for each room and duplicating workbooks that correlate with the new textbooks. For the first time, a checklist of math skills has been developed to be kept in the cumulative records. This will inform teachers what skills the student were exposed to previously and which ones were mastered.

Besides the basic curriculum courses offered at Central, students also attend classes in art, music and pre-vocational personal services. Students receive quality instruction from teachers certified in these areas. A wide variety of programs is also available for students with special learning problems.

All of the instruction that goes on at Central requires much money. To help obtain materials that state and local funds do not provide, a Spring Festival is held each year. The community heartily supports this event, last year helping to raise \$4,692.

A guidance program is provided to help students deal with the particular problems of their age group. In conjunction with this, an in-school suspension program is in its third year at Central. Students are able to continue their academic work, although being suspended from the

regular classroom for discipline problems.

Extra-curricular activities at Central offer a variety of after-school programs. The seventh grade band boasts of a record group of 118 students. The chorus is practicing in the mornings this year and has 45 members. For the second year, Central has a Student Council which gives students an opportunity to become involved in planning and carrying out activities for the school. It has been a great success. An outgrowth of the Student Council is the school newspaper, the Central Pioneer, which is written by the alternate Student Council members. Six of Central's seventh grade boys are members of the Junior High football team.

So much is going on at Central to meet all the educational needs of the students. Without a staff of well-trained teachers and principals, this could not be possible. Central has seventeen teachers who have received their Masters Degree, most by attending night school and three teachers that are presently working on this.

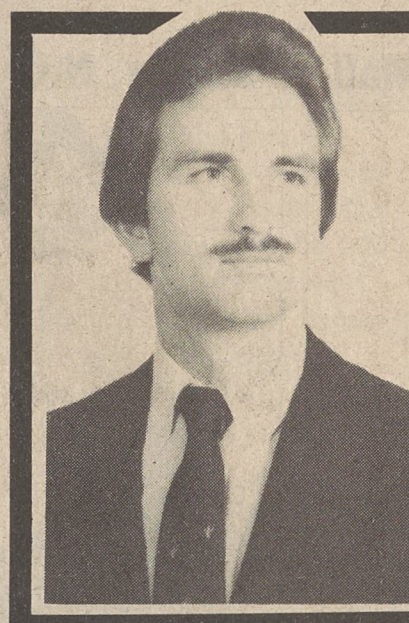
Central may be contained in an old building, but the educational program going on there is very up-to-date. Mentioned here is only a fraction of the work going on at Central. It must be remembered that education is confined not to the schools alone but is a cooperative effort between the school system and the community.



Photo by I.G. Alexander

SCIENCE CLASS - Central Science teacher Sherrill Toney, right, gives individual instruction to Shawn Smith while Pam Wall, left, and

Tina Roper identify insects during a class at Central.



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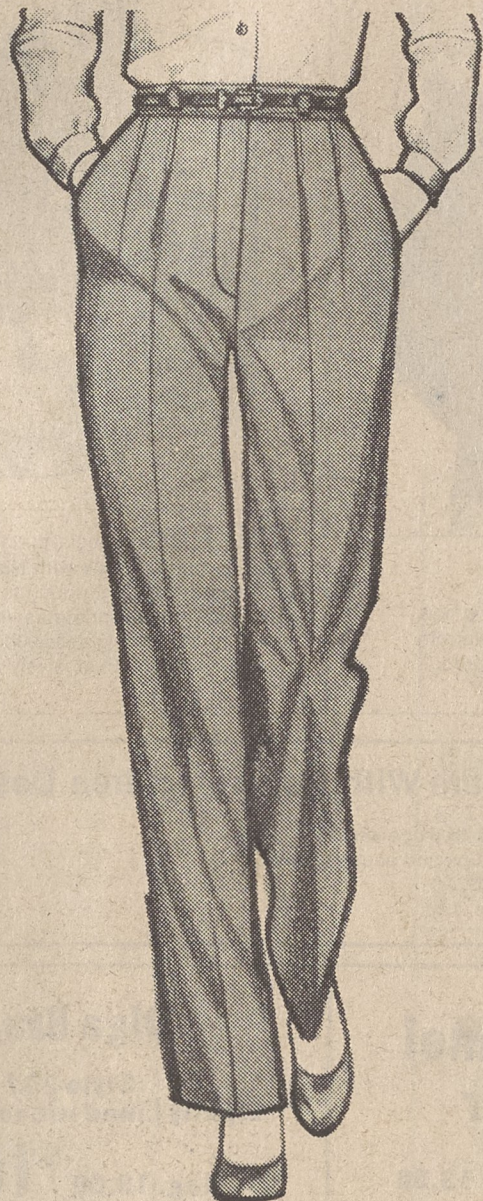


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