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The ROCKET

Rockcastle County High School

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Mentor program helps students get answers they need

BY TASHA VANZANT

Think back to those long ago years of middle school. At some point, you probably wondered what the mysterious world at the high school was like, especially since the time when you would be attending the high school was drawing near.

The same questions that you had then are still pondered by some middle school students.

"Can freshmen have cars? How many days can you miss? What kind of classes will I have to take?" asked one middle school student. "And exactly what are credits. Isn't that what they use on Star Wars to pay for stuff?"

Clearly, some students are slightly confused.

In order to aid these students in adapting to such changes, and with the demands of middle school, the 21st Century Community Learning Center has developed a mentorship program.

The middle school students have just entered their teen years, and are in need of guidance. The mentorship serves that purpose.

Several people have been involved in establishing the program, including Mr. Travis Brenda, a math teacher at RCHS, Mrs. Jill

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Seniors honored at KHSJA

BY STAFF WRITER

Seniors Mindy Bullock and Cheyenne Carmack were recognized at the Kentucky High School Journalism Association Conference Thursday, March 22.

Bullock received first place in column writing, as well as third place in editorial cartoons.

Carmack received third place in double page layout and design in a category otherwise dominated by Assumption High School in Louisville.

"I'm extremely proud of both Cheyenne and Mindy, and of every student I've had this year," said Ms. Susan Norton, newspaper adviser. "They've done an exceptional job."

Green means go, but watch for other drivers

BY TARA COX

Around 2pm on February 23, senior Jennifer Woodall's car was totaled when it was hit by a semi-truck.

"I was pulling into the school and the arrow was green, but I had the radio on and didn't hear the truck. It had jackknifed and hit me," Woodall said.

According to Woodall, the road was stained with skid marks, showing the truck's attempt to stop 185 feet before the stop light. She was knocked 50 feet from the place where the vehicles had first hit.

Traffic accidents had never been a significant problem in Rockcastle County until the installation of the stop light on the 461 by-pass outside the high school. Since it was erected around six years ago, over six wrecks have occurred, which have injured and claimed the lives of victims in the process.

One striking similarity in most of the accidents is that at least one of the persons involved either did not see the stop light, or noticed it, but did not have enough time to stop.

Several teachers, along with others,

have been involved in accidents at the stop light over the years, two of whom are Ms. Dana Singleton and Mrs. Allene Cornelius.

Ms. Singleton was hit by another driver while she was turning left out of the high school.

"[The other driver] just didn't

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Senior Jennifer Woodall's car was crushed when a semi hit her. Her wreck is just one of many that have occurred at the stop light outside the school.

Bridges eases transition into high school

BY STEVEN WARD

The Bridges program is helping this year's freshmen make the transition easier for this year's freshmen.

"The Bridges program was established to give incoming freshmen the support they need for the transition [from middle school to high school]," said Ms. Allen.

It seems to be working. This year's freshmen have improved over many past classes, with the number of failed courses has decreasing by 94 since the first semester of last year and 315 since the first semester of the 1998-1999 freshmen class.

Bridges meetings have been held after school so that students can get additional help from a teacher or discuss things that have caused them concern.

"I've really liked being in Bridges," said freshman KaSheena Bullock. "They [the Bridges teachers] told us that we wouldn't have

it easy. They let us know that the work would be hard and there would be a lot of it."

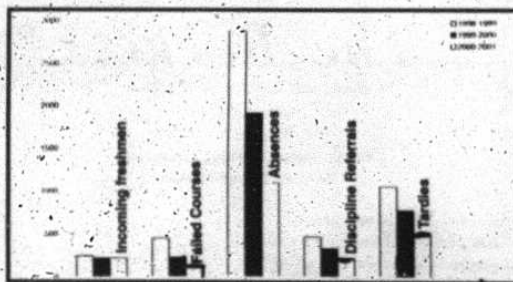
Also, Bridges students have ventured out to area businesses, where they meet with a manager or speaker who tells them some of the things that will be expected of them as adults and what they will need to succeed.

"The trips have been pretty cool," said freshmen Brandon Thomas. "It was nice to see what we'll be doing in the next couple of years."

Fifty-five students who were thought to have needed special help with certain transitional aspects were targeted specially for the program.

"The middle school teachers made a list of some students of who they thought needed some extra help," said freshmen English teacher Mrs. Nancy Bussell.

"Those were the students we



concentrated some of our efforts towards."

According to Mr. Chris Frith, who also teaches English I, the students who have participated in the program have failed fewer classes and have also increased their grades.

Ms. Allen and Mrs. Loretta K. Powell, Director of Student Services, have applied for the same

grant so that they can keep the program running next year.

The grant is a competitive one, which means they will be competing with several other schools to be considered.

Ms. Allen says she is very proud of the freshmen for their success in making the transition.

"I'm very hopeful that future classes will be as successful or more successful than this year's."