

Teachers to begin common exams next fall

BY JESSICA DENNY

Typically in Biology I, students may have Mrs. Belinda Corder or Mrs. Debbie Cash. Both teachers would teach their students going by state guidelines, but they may have very different exams. However, this will all change next year. At their February 27 meeting, the SBDM Council voted for teachers to give common unit exams.

Common unit exams are tests to assure that students are being assessed over the same content; therefore, these tests would only apply to students taking the same class under different teachers. For example students taking Global Issues may have Mr. David Vorbeck or Mrs. Debbie Coleman. The students in these classes would take similar tests that included the same content.

"This will make a more consistent measurement of what the kids know," said Mrs. Cindy Anderkin, a parent member of the SBDM.

Common unit exams started out as a proposal that came out of the curriculum committee.

"The curriculum committee makes sure Rockcastle County

schools are offering courses to prepare you [the students] for testing and [life] after graduation," said math teacher Mrs. Morrisa Hayes.

Members of the curriculum committee, and some students agreed with Anderkin on the benefit of common exams.

"All students would know the same material," said sophomore Billy Bales.

All teachers interviewed for this article felt the same as Bales, this will ensure that all students know the same material. However, some students thought they could use the tests to their benefit.

"I think it would be easier to cheat," said freshman Matthew Allen.

However, World Civilization teacher Mrs. Glenna Carter says cheating on these tests would be just as easy as with any other tests.

"Teachers will meet periodically to change the tests."

Sophomore Danny Pingleton doesn't think these tests would be

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Approved English IV proposal opens whole new can of worms

BY CLIFTON T. WILLIAMS

On February 27, the Site Based Decision Making Council approved the proposal to eliminate transitions and turn Senior English into an all year class with a semester of English IV and Writing Composition.

The proposal is supposed to allow seniors more time to work on more literature and college appropriate material without having to spend most of the class worrying about portfolios.

"The change is necessary so we can teach more literature to the kids, to get them ready for college," said English department chairperson Nancy Bussell.

Although it may sound promising, there are many rising concerns about this new ordinance, that leave it a little edgy. One such concern was the hiring of a new English teacher to shrink down the class sizes of these relatively overbearing senior classes.

"For this to work we will have to have another teacher. We'll have to," said senior English teacher Jennifer Mattingly.

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This may be true, but it doesn't mean that it is going to happen. According to Principal John Hale, whether or not the school can hire another teacher depends on the number of freshmen students enrolling in the next year.

"You are allowed to have one teacher for every 20 students," said Hale.

As of now Hale said that the freshman enrollment for next year was at 240 students. If this number does not drop considerably, the school would be able to hire one more teacher for the next year. However, nothing final on this can be determined until enrollment for next year is complete.

Another growing concern is what will happen to David Riddle, whose main position in the faculty, along with the student co-op program, was as a transitions.

"I'll probably go somewhere in health education or vocational practical living," said Riddle. "I won't lose my job."

This brings on a whole slew of

new possibilities. Currently the arts & humanities class is being taught by two people, chorus teacher Tammy Reynolds, and humanities teacher Allene Cornelius. Reynolds teaches the music portion of the class to a group of students for a nine week period while Cornelius teaches the dance portion to another. Then the two switch groups and teach the same things to the new group.

This is one place where Mr. Riddle could wind up. If Riddle taught the dance portion of the class in place of Mrs. Cornelius, Cornelius, who is also an accomplished English teacher, would teach senior English. However, Cornelius, was a little more than sceptical of this proposition.

"I don't want to be switched to something new again," said Cornelius. "Senior English is the something I haven't taught, so I'd rather stay where I am."

Regardless of this, Hale agreed

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A Snapshot Of Your 2001-2002 School Year...

My best friends are:

My favorite musical groups include:

My favorite class/teacher is:

When I finish school, I hope to pursue a career in:

(first choice)

(second choice)

The most exciting things that have happened this school year are:

The things I will most remember about this year are:

When my class has a reunion in several years, I want to be sure to remember:

Citizens Bank

Member FDIC

Brodhead
758-8212

Mt. Vernon
256-2500

McKee
287-8390

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