

## GRADING POLICY: continued from front

Along with the new grading scale there's a change in the grading period, too. It's being switched from the current four nine weeks to two eighteen week periods.

Midterms will be sent at the end of the normal first nine weeks and report cards will be sent out at the end of each eighteen weeks.

"The grading period change should help students to pass because you have a longer period of time to get more points and get a higher average," said Mrs. Riddle.

"This doesn't affect one nine week classes, only two nine weeks," said Hale. According to Hale, this means that classes like Health and PE aren't affected.

"This makes scheduling easier because you won't have to schedule students to nine week classes," said Mr. Adam Coleman, who teaches US History.

Although there won't be any problems in the future about having to make up one nine weeks students who have failed a one nine weeks class this year can make it up next year.

"This is great on students as a whole because they would have the whole semester to get a good grade instead of trying to do it at the last minute," said senior Terri Glover.

## MR. HALE: continued from front

graduation. He's seen many middle school graduations, but said that they failed in comparison to this. Even with the graduation of his own son to come this year, Hale has still shown little signs of pressure.

"Everything is just a rehearsal for this," Hale commented with a look of retrospect. "Everyone who walks across that stage will be thrust into a world of life-changing decisions."

Well, I'm sure you're right Mr. Hale, and I'm sure that our time at RCHS has helped us to make the right decisions.



## EXCHANGE: continued from page 7

that. It was all based on how well you worked in class. Participation was a big part."

Jens: "In Germany, the grade is based on 50% the participation and the other 50% is how well you do, like on tests and things. Your English class here is like our German class in Germany, but the tests are harder there. We never have fill in the blank or circle the answer. We always have to sit down and write out like essays and open responses. A lot of it depends on your teacher, too."

Do German schools have the same set up of extra curricular activities (ie. football, track)?

Jens: "Yes, we have the after school sports but no teams."

Doris: "You can go there just once a week if you want and play a little bit of volleyball. You hit the ball and they just hit it back but that's about it."

Jens: "Like me, I played soccer. I didn't play soccer for the school, there you play soccer for a club. So after school you go home and put your stuff together to go to practice. Soccer here isn't like soccer in Germany. Here you play on grass, but in Germany I have never seen a grass field. We always play on gravel mostly because it's less expensive. It's a lot easier to play here. It is a change."

How do the social studies classes

## VOCATIONAL: continued from page 6

almost every type of student.

"Everyone should take at least one computer/typing class," recommends teacher Claretta Hodges, "because computers are used in every field."

"We stress professional ability which helps students on the job and make college easier for anyone that attends," she said.

compare to the social studies classes in Germany?

Doris: "I think that the social studies classes here aren't like the ones in Germany. Here it's more...I don't know. You just learn more about the whole world. In Germany we have history so it's just like history. Not all the U.S. History and the World Civ. and stuff."

Jens: "I had my history class for four years and I spent three of those years just talking about World War II."

Have you ever had to keep a portfolio before?

Jens: "NO! I thought it was strange and actually I thought it was kind of unfair. The people here created their portfolio over the whole year..."

Doris: "Yeah, they got to take their old pieces and old letter to reviewer, and I was just sitting there and I had to make a portfolio. I thought, really, great, well."

Are you going back to Germany at the end of the school year?

Doris: "I'm going back... well I told my company I wanted to stay one month longer... so I'm going back at the end of June."

Jens: "I think I'll stay here and go to college. I think I might get a scholarship. I talked to different colleges, but my visa is just until the middle of July, this year. So I will have to get a new visa to go to college. I had a soccer tryout four weeks ago [at the time of this interview] at Lindsey Wilson College, and they have a really good

team. I think they won the national championship three or four times. So at the tryouts I was really nervous. Soccer there is really competitive. They told me I definitely made the team and they were supposed to tell me how much money I can get but I never talked to them again. I decided to go to Somerset because it's just closer."

Jens, what was it like to play football at an American High School?

Jens: "It was awesome! I came here on July 28 and on July 29 or 30 they told me I could play football. The football team at this time was at the camp. They just wanted to see me, to see how I could kick a football. I was really nervous...I never even had a football in my hands before. So at first I had to kick extra points and I kicked them all through. Then the coach said to back me up ten yards. I still kicked everything through and he backed me up again. I still kicked everything through. Well, then he wanted to see how I could kick off. So they backed me up like fifty yards and I was telling the coach that I could not kick it through because it was too far. I didn't know it was a kick off and not a field goal any more. So it was all pretty funny."

What have you learned from your experiences here?

Jens: "What I learned pretty much before everybody told me you would change your character, but I always thought it wouldn't be possible to change a person's character. But now I believe that my character has changed."

training for Kentucky high school students, allowing them to get a head start on their college education."

What does this mean? This will allow students that take some vocational classes to transfer the credits they earn to technical schools across the state, including Laurel Technical College.

How has your opinion of Americans changed since you've been here?

Jens: "I always thought that Americans were always in groups. Like those, you know, when you see on t.v. those gangs. Like in New York City and downtown. I always thought it would be kinda like that. I found out it's a lot different but I found out everybody is really nice."

Doris: "I found out that the school is really different. I didn't really expect anything because I had never really met an American."

What advice would you give to people in Rockcastle about the outside world?

Doris: "Be more open minded, please."

Jens: "People in Rockcastle?"

Doris and Jens concluded the interview saying that their experiences in America would leave lasting impressions on their hearts for the rest of their life. They tried to explain to me how we should cherish what we have in Rockcastle. We should cherish the community and the people in it.

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