Teacher helps make science fun

Jackie Acho is a North Farm-ington High School senior.

By Jackie Acho special writer

If you do not know what a good teacher is, ask a high school student. Chances are the student will tell you he likes a teacher who excites you about hid subject, knows the subject well and teaches difficult contact.

ject well and teaches difficult con-cepts as if they were child's play. These qualities describe Beverly Schmitt, a chemistry and physics teacher at North Farmington High School. Schmitt, originally from New York, has taught chemistry for 21 years.

SHE EARNED a bachelor's degree in chemistry at the State University of New York and a master's degree in analytical chemistry at Wayne State University.

A good all-around student, she decided to enter the world of chemistry as an undergraduate student after her father suggested she acquire a marketable major.

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Because she would owe no tuition if she declared she would , teach, Schmitt stumbled into teaching. She continued teaching solby to earn money for graduate school. But her surprise, she found she missed teaching while back in school. But her surprise, she found she missed teaching while back in school. But her husband, she decleded to make the husband, she husband, she

"I see a real progression of learn-ing, knowledge and kids getting turned on to science. Many times, we've killed natural curiosity when science should be fun and interest-

Science is the way the world

works."

Her ability as a teacher shines through in the record of her advanced-placement chemistry students. North's students have taken Advanced Placement tests for college credit for the past 10 years.

OF ABOUT 25 students each

- Specially for Mom.

Varmington Observer

Constitution of the control of the c

"Although science is not for them, there are a lot of things they can do out there."

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NORTH IS a good school to teach at because of its highly motivated students, Schmitt said.

"Also, the district is supportive of good teaching. There is a lot of academie freedom if you're doing a good job."

Aithough she does not see any serious problems at North, Schmitt suggests, "Teachers should have better means of communicating with parents... better offices and telephones."

She and her husband have two children, Susan, 11 and Peter, 7. Schmitt enjoys gardening and sports. Individual sports such as tennis, however, have been replaced by family activities.

Like most teachers, Schmitt occasionally gets discouraged, but, by understanding students, she remains unjaded.

"I REMEMBER back when I was

windaded.

"I REMEMBER back when I was 16. I was a good student, but I — like these kids — was also interested in other things such as jobs, sports and dates.

"These are kids, and it wouldn't be much fun if they weren't. Schmitt is an excellent role model of aspiring teachers. It is very important that more teachers follow in her footsteps because the impact a teacher has on a student can be monumental. Schmitt, among other fine teachers at North, has achieved a positive effect on many students. It should not go unrecognized.

RANDY BORST/Staff photograph
Bevorly Schmitt teaches chemistry and physics at North Farmington High School.

Bloodmobile is slated

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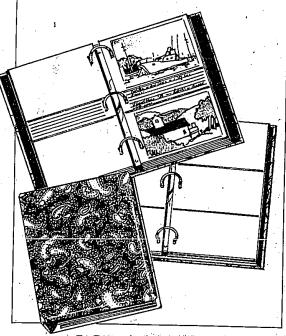
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