## Clarenceville focusing on television class

"Quiet on the set" isn't an uncom-ion call in Sharon McDonald's

classroom.

That's because her classroom is
Clarenceville High School's new television studio.

Twenty-six students – a big group
for a hands-on class, according to
McDonald — are learning about media production by doing it themselves.

The students do everything from operating the cameras and directing the production to plugging in credits on the videotape and being the audience and talk show hosts and host-

ence and talk show hosts and host-cases.

"What I like about this class is it makes the kids think on their feet," McDonald said. "They get to use in their skills in a new dimension. I of their skills in a new dimension. I of their skills in a new dimension. I clared in other classes in this."

The Clarenceville School District speni \$25,000 to convert a classroom





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into the television studio and it wasn't a simple task.

McDonald, working part time for the district, spent last year visiting high school television studios in Southfield, Birmingham, Livonla, Farmington and Huron Valley.

She took the best feature of each and incorporated it into her plan for Carenceville's studio.

Much of the work of converting the classroom into a studio was done by school maintenance employed and with the help of MetroVision of all vionia and dousland. The mere and sound equipment and trimiture and sound equipment and trimiture.

McDONALD IS no stranger to television. A former Plymouth-Canton teacher, she majored in journalism in college, taking newspaper writing/broadcast classes. She also has been host of MciroVision's "Community Upbeat" program for four years.

writing roroacast classes. She also has been best of MicroVisio's "Community Upbeat" program for four years.

Her introduction to Clarenceville came when she interviewed Superintendent Michael Shibler for National Education Week. Later he approached her about handling the high school television class.

"I'm a frustrated journalist, so it really feels good to me to do what my love is," she said. "This is kind of my love is," she said. "This is kind of my love is," she said. "This is kind of my love is," she said. "This is kind of my love is," she said. "This is kind of my love is," she said. "This is kind of my love is," she said. "This is kind of my love is," in said. "This is kind of my love is," she said. "This is kind of my love is," she said. "This is kind of my love is," in sea of the devision personalities have blossomed through their exposure to television production. In just a few months they have produced several 30-second public service amountenents and between the service amountenents out the rerelated topics as pregnancy and drug plause. They also are producing 15-minute "Student Spotlight" shows, interviewing everyone from the 1987 homeooming queen to Shibler. Two students also are working on a "Clarenceville News Update," as news program geared for fellow students, and others are editing film footage of the district's sequicertennial celebration last June.

The class isn't all handson. Like regular high school classes students have a textbook and workbook that blend in with the curriculum developed by McDonald.

GUEST SPEAKERS from local



Floor manager Sabrina Catt (center) counts (left) and Chris Gilders take aim with the camdown to the start of taping as Bonnie Grech eras.

down to the start of taping as television stations have visited the class to discuss production techniques, and the students have also taken a field trip to Channel 7's studios in Southfield to see a taping of "Kelly and Company" and tour the facilities.

"What I was really proud of was that they could appreciate what they saw," McDonald said of the trip. "They've really done a lot in such a short time."

The studio, however, isn't just for high school students. Future plans include bringing in elementary students to help with productions and working with the community education program to produce shows on such subjects as flower arranging. "Thanks are as a flower arranging," "Chancel of many uses for this studio that it's mind boggling," McDonald said. "This is a thing of

the future, and there will be places (jobs) out there for these students and cable has given them an avenue to show off their work."

McDonald has found the students take the class seriously. She believes that part of that seriousness is because the stude looks like a professional studio.

one admits that there's more to the class than teaching the students how to operate the equipment. They are also tackling pre- and post-pro-duction techniques, set design and lighting.

"FILMING IS a very short time," she added. "There's a lot that goes on before and after that makes it look good. They've learned that it takes patience and teamwork."

If McDonald had ber druthers, the

class would be two boars long to overcome the difficulty of setting up and tearing down sets before the stu-dents rush off to their next class. Hight now she's looking forward to next year when an advanced televi-sion class will be offered.

"What I love about this class is that there's a place in it for every-body to feel success," she said. "You don't have to be a straight A student

"I have one student who has a hearing problem. He helped tape the homecoming and liked it so much that he's going to do all the basket-ball games."

The Clarenceville School Dis-trict includes portions of Livonia, Redford Township and Farming-ton Hills.



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