

By Sue Mason
staff writer

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

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

Much of the work of converting the classroom into a studio was done by school maintenance employees and with the help of MetroVision of Livonia and donations from area business, it was filled with camera and sound equipment and furniture.

"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 baby."

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

GUEST SPEAKERS from local



photos by STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Floor manager Sabrina Calt (center) counts down to the start of taping as Bonnie Grech (left) and Chris Gilders take aim with the cameras.

"There's so many uses for this studio that it's mind boggling," McDonald said. "This is a thing of

"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 her druthers, the

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

"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 basketball games."

The Clarenceville School District includes portions of Livonia, Redford Township and Farmington Hills.

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