Farmington High sophomore Eric Eslinger laughs at a akit broadcast to 1,300 Japanese language students across the country. In the background is Sumiko Capeling, a bilingual aide who helps students with their language lessons.



Farmington bilingual aide Sumiko Capeling listens and watches as her four students observe a satellite transmission



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tions accepted up to 3 pm, on the day of the show. The optional Thinner(Show Package, reserved and paid for by October 26 - Thinner begins in 6-30 pm, in 3-306

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Satellite links language students

Kiran Arora told her parents last spring she wished the Farmington school district would offer Japanese language classes.

nguage classes. Her wish came true this fall.

Her wish came true this fall.

"It was something I definitely wanted to take," said the Farmington High School sophomore, who is also taking second-year Lain." Hike it because it's so different. Most people don't have the opportunity to learn such a different language."

Arora is one of four Farmington High students selected to participate in a beginning Japanese language course transmitted to the school via stellite. They are part of the 1,300 students in 257 schools across 20 states participating.

Other school districts in Southeast Michigan, including Clarenceville, Detroit and Pontlae, use this language program or other satellite offerings.

A RATHER animated teacher, Ann Arbor native Tim Cook broad-casts his Japanese lessons from Lincoln, Neb. Unlike the old TV class image of a bland speaker on a screen to an auditorium full of students, Cook uses role-playing and props and interacts with different schools on a nudio basis during each session. He also wears hats and T-shirts representing a variety of high schools while on the air to make kids feel at home.

home.

Farmington High students had the chance to go national once and are scheduled to do it again in December.

scheduled to do it again in December.

Class is taught in the newly revamped Farmington High Schole needs center, where a new satisfactor in the same properties of the same properties and the same properties of the same propertie

"It's not an easy way to step into language," Capeling said. "It (the

Students learn the basics of Japanese Ian-guage and culture daily in a satellite teaching pilot at Farmington High School. Pictured and Sarah Host and sophomores Kiran Arora and Eric Eslinger.

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workload) has been piling up a lot — some of the students are taking two languages.

"THEY'RE DOING more than I expected. They can speak (Japanese)

expected. They can speak (Japanese) now."

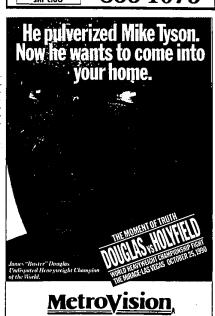
The course is "rigorous," but the students seem to like it, said district media resources director Peggy Schmidt. Seem to like it, said district media resources director Peggy Schmidt. Seem to see the seem of the se

vide opportunities for kids."
Students agree it's a chance to learn a language which is more worldy, especially in light of today's economic marketplace. Farmington High funior Tracey Kuffel said Japanese is easier to learn than Spanish, in which she is also enrolled this year. "I always wanted to learn the Japanese language," ahe said, adding that it will "look good on my resume. "Altogether, it's easier. The sentence structure is easier than any other language has a Farmington High Spinorore, said he hesitated the spinorore, said he hesitated the spinorore, said he hesitated it is spinorore, said hesitated it is spinorore, said hesitated it is spinorore, said hesitated i

puters the cest of my life. I think it will help."
Assistant superintendent for curriculum and staff development, Judith White, and the Japanese pilot curriculum suffers superintendent of the superi

careful of that."
Despite the uncertainty of the district's budget because of recent state cubacks, with more projected, she is encouraging staff to continue looking at language options. "We have to keep working toward that goal," she added.





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