

## Career-oriented

### Class teaches publication basics

BY SUE BUCK  
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If the Oakland Schools' Sept. 25 vocational education millage passes, the Farmington Public School District may offer its Publications and Processes program based at Farmington High School as a magnet or model class to other students within the intermediate district.

Betty Short teaches English and journalism; Dennis Zaleski teaches graphic arts and visual imaging. They combined forces to put together what seemed like a natural fit.

"What happened is we looked at our classes and there was an overlap," Short explained. "We thought, 'Why not combine the classes, giving kids the total experience of writing and producing?' It's the only class like it offered in the district. We are pretty sure it is the only class like it offered anywhere in the country."

The class is about eight years old, she said.

"What makes it so unique is the equipment that we have," Short said. "Not every school has the graphic arts lab that we have."

The year-long class teaches students all phases of publication, from writing and photography to electronic publishing and production. It offers students the opportunity to learn different writing styles as well as production of printed materials.

Publication and Processes is a prerequisite for Journalism II,

the class that produces the school newspapers. Students also have the opportunity to go on to Communication Technology II and Visual Imaging Technology.

Included are lessons in computer programs, traditional and digital photography, packaging, type fonts and advertising.

"The kids love having this," Short said. "We fill up from youngest to oldest because we want to stock our advanced classes. We don't have too many seniors typically."

She said colleges and universities are amazed at the knowledge graduates bring from these classes.

#### In-house printing

The school district prints its own brochures, staff business cards and a stationery, and employment applications, as well as T-shirts.

"If the soccer team, for example, wants T-shirts, Mr. Zaleski gets them at cost and that's what they sell them for. Somebody who is in the class on the soccer team usually makes up the design and prints up all the T-shirts," Short said.

Zaleski said he wasn't yet sure how the class would be incorporated if the millage passes. "We would be able to reproduce the program in other places," Zaleski said. "Employers are looking for a good, well-rounded student and a good communicator."

The class provides a cutting edge education to students, he said.

Zaleski was one of 100 teach-

ers invited to an international print show at McCormick Place in Chicago last week. His first teaching job at Farmington High School resulted in a 29-year career there.

#### Teaming up

Short and Zaleski team-teach a semester-long Communications Technology class. The class offers the opportunity to learn design and production of printed materials, as a prerequisite for Communication Technology II and Visual Imaging Technology.

Students sell \$500-\$600 worth of ads per school newspaper issue. "We only print five issues per year," Short said. "Our printing bill is \$800 per issue."

The district provides funding for the difference.

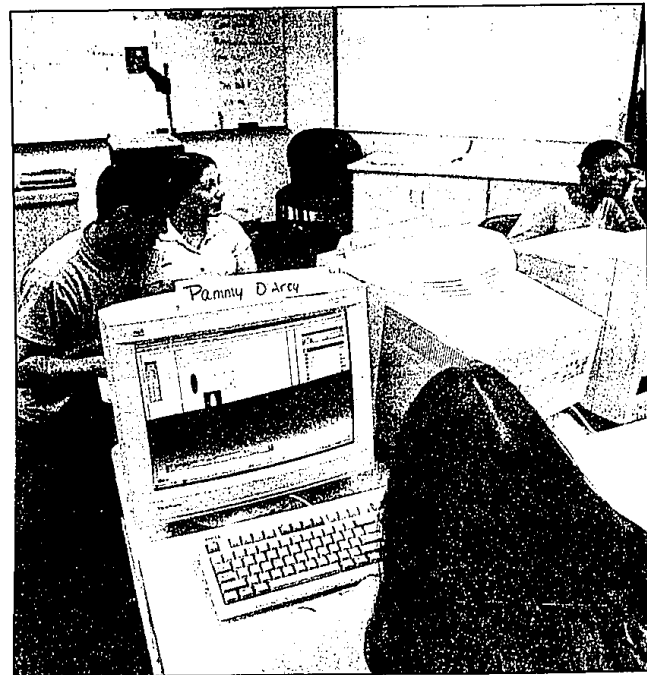
Short has two students whose full-time job is to contact advertisers. "It's real world experience, having deadlines," she said. "It works really well."

Farmington resident Bethany Chismark and Farmington Hills resident Rebecca York, both seniors, edit the newspaper.

"It's important to learn about publications and how to present ideas because you want to be neat and present good publications," York said.

Chismark said the classes give students an idea about what they might like to go into in college. "You can see what skills you excel in," she said.

"We try to give them real life experiences," Short said. "We give them the tools. Then they can apply it to real life situations."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DIESLER

**Classmate:** High-tech computers, projection screens and software get a lot of use by students. Student aide Mark Benivenga helps Gianna Spatoulas, as Lynette Ponder and Pammy D'Arcy (foreground) learn the Pagemaker design program.



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**Computer lesson:** Mike Early gets a suggestion from teacher Betty Short. Maureen Miller waits her turn to ask a question.

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