

Clarenceville students get new view of English

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that called for less work and fewer papers," said Patricia Vickery, administrative assistant-curriculum. It was impossible to control the program because the students "were skipping all over the map."

"THE UPSHOT was that many students were graduating without ever having read a novel, for instance, she said.

"Our English program has four strands: reading, writing, listening and speaking," she said.

"What the staff was beginning to notice, too, was that many students were not as proficient in writing and speaking as they should have been."

Parent complaints along the same lines spurred the study to change the program, which has been in effect since 1957.

"Personally, I'm delighted," Mrs. Vickery said. "I never liked it in the

first place. It was time to change.

"Many of the teachers who recommended the other program are no longer with the district. The present staff is enthusiastic about this new program and the new texts adopted to go along with it and will work hard for its success."

ONE OF THE tipoffs to need for a overhaul of the English program was the school newspaper.

"We all felt that it was less than what we would have liked it to be," Mrs. Vickery said. Ironically, the paper was selected a winner in the high school student newspaper competition held annually at Schoolcraft College.

The state assessment tests didn't show any apparent lack of proficiency either, she said. Results of those tests have shown that Clarenceville students' skills were the same as those of their counterparts across the state.

"It was the teachers — with input from parents — who felt that our students were less able to perform in all four elements of our program."

UNDER THE NEW program, most students will take English I and II at the ninth-grade level, moving on to English III and IV in the 10th grade, followed by a full year of American literature.

Superior students will be able to waive English I and II, moving into the second year of program in the ninth grade, thereby becoming eligible sooner to pick from a list of 10 electives by the junior year. Electives would include the school newspaper, yearbook, humanities, advanced composition, grammar, stagecraft and play production (summer offering only).

Provisions have also been made for the student in need of remedial help.

That student can take the entire four years to fulfill the English major by taking a basic year of reading and writing before moving into English I and II.

"The change will serve to unify the program. Everybody will be doing the same thing. They'll all have a kernel to build on," Mrs. Vickery said.

Kalamazoo names graduates

Farmington and Farmington Hills students were among the 300 members of the Kalamazoo College Class of 1981 who received degrees recently.

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