

# Freshmen Get Learning

*Academy receives \$100,00 to get 9th-graders planning for futures*

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MAULDIN -- Mauldin High School is using federal-funds to start a freshman program aimed at keeping students in high school and getting them thinking about studies beyond the 12th grade. The \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education will buy computers and software that will allow more students to begin learning PowerPoint presentation software, use the Internet to keep up with current legislation and the stock market, and use desktop publishing.

Each of the six lead teachers for the various subjects in the academy will have five computers in their classrooms. Although the school has increased its number of up-to-date computers from 104 to 285 this year, teachers in the 1,600-student school still find it hard getting every student enough time on the computers. "We saw the need for this when we began to do research on the ninth-grade academy," Principal Rick McClure said. "We feel that technology is a key component to making the program successful, and it's consistent with the Greenville County School District's educational plan."



McClure said the school is trying to get ninth-graders to begin thinking about careers and helping them shape a four-year plan that will help prepare them for post-secondary education. The money is from the Village Green grant program sponsored by the Department of Education. "The focus is on improving teaching and learning," said Lynn Nolan, the director of instructional technology for the Greenville County School District who works with Village Green. Nolan said

the program gives teachers new tools to use in the classroom to facilitate learning and to access a variety of resources both online and off.

Johnny Wallace, the lead math teacher for the planned academy, said the grant will open up opportunities for students to apply what they're learning to real-life situations. "A lot of times now students will tell you they don't really see a connection," he said. "This project will give us an opportunity to start and integrate technology throughout the curriculum. It's taking it to another level."

(April 2001)

## **IN THE PROGRAM**

Mauldin High School is one of the final six schools in the Greenville County School District that will be added to the Village Green program. The other schools are:

- Paris Elementary
- Simpsonville Elementary
- Parker Academy
- Woodmont Middle
- Eastside High

The district already has 12 schools in the program. They are:

- Mitchell Road Elementary
- Pelham Road Elementary
- Sara Collins Elementary
- Summit Drive Elementary
- Greenville Middle
- Greer Middle
- League Academy
- Northwest Middle
- Blue Ridge High
- Greenville Senior High Academy
- J.L. Mann High Academy
- Travelers Rest High