

METROPOLITAN

Advanced English classes give college credit

When school begins in the fall, seniors taking advanced English at Jefferson may earn college credit. Through an advanced placement option being offered for the first time, students who pay a small fee and pass a year-end test will have earned a full college credit for their Jefferson English class.

The advanced English classes are offered to all four grades. During the ninth grade, students concentrate on how to organize and write essays. They study a variety of literature including novels and Shakespeare, learning to analyze character, setting, plot, and theme. Throughout all four levels of advanced English, students also practice test-taking skills readying them for the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

At the tenth grade level short research papers are added to the writing program. In the junior year the research paper in its fully expanded form is taught and students study American literature. "Students begin developing their own styles, and the literature they study becomes more complex," commented Jeanette Swenson, English Department head.

By the time the students reach the fourth year of the advanced program they continue to develop their writing, learning to write on an assigned topic much like they would be expected to do in college. The writing assignments are designed to give them practice for college. They study international literature.

The department also offers a creative writing elective. Here students learn a variety of literary writing techniques in addition to producing a literary magazine. "Rights of Passage" was published again this spring by students who met after school during an activity period. Advised by Linda Christensen, the staff included Ruth James, a junior, as editor. The 53-page publication included literary contributions from over 20 students and photography from students in Henry Sjoblom's photography classes. The cover was designed by Candee Deane, a senior. School district administrators were very impressed with the sophistication and quality of the student work. Plans for next year include expanding the size and working more closely with the art department.

In recent end-of-the-year meet-

ings, the English department met to evaluate the writing curriculum. One conclusion is that next year both teachers and students will be held more accountable. "To be placed in a specific level, students have to be competent. To move up they will have to demonstrate their competence," explained Ms. Swenson. The department uses language usage tests as well as a student writing sample to determine placement. "We are finding that many students come to us who have, in theory, passed their English classes elsewhere but can't meet Jefferson's criteria," said Ms. Swenson.

The program, in its fourth year, is unique in design and is a multilevel program aimed at meeting the needs of a diverse student body. The first few weeks of school are very important in assuring a student's success in English. Students are placed according to test data and teacher assessment of writing skills. In placing ninth graders, reading test scores on standardized tests given yearly by the Portland schools are used. In addition, a writing sample is collected from the students as eighth graders. These two pieces of infor-

mation usually result in appropriate placement for most students.

However, when school begins teacher administered tests are also given to determine correct placement. These tests use reading samples from materials students are asked to read in their classes.


The program, in conjunction with the Reading Department, has been successful in helping large numbers of students pass the graduation standards tests. It is also possible for students to move through the program at an individual rate since it is competency based. For many, two years of growth is possible in one. "There's definitely a change in the quality of a student's work as a result," says Ms. Swenson. She points to the depth of thought and the ability to analyze more complex materials when they have completed the program.

If you listen to students, the program has earned high marks. Many alert their friends to the high standards set by the department. So for the JHS seniors who opt for college credit next year and have proven themselves in the English classes, they have a good start on the skills needed for success in college.

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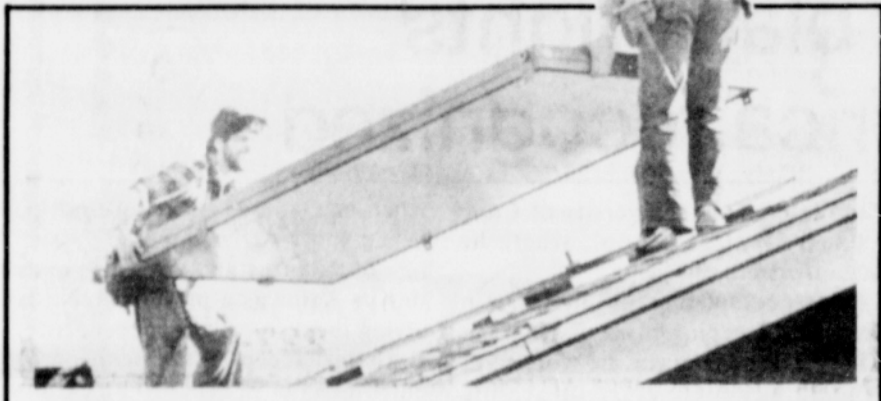
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Energy saving center offers loans



Joe Brooks (left) and father, Jerry Brooks, heft solar panels onto roof of Northeast Portland home where a new solar hot heating system is being installed through a 4% loan program available through the City Energy Saving Center.

by C. Eddie Edmondson

Since it was approved a year and a half ago by the City Council, the Energy Saving Center has loaned approximately \$2 million to homeowner and area businesses to improve their energy usage. The escalating costs for gas, oil, electric and solar, as well as the peak demands on energy suppliers, has made saving energy an important governmental function to ensure there is an adequate supply to meet the demands.

As a result, said Dolores Hurtado, public information coordinator for the Center, area homeowners are urged to take advantage of the new 4% per cent loan money available to reduce their energy consumption.

"You need an energy audit," she said. "That's the most effective thing to do." It is also the first step the Center takes when they are asked to provide assistance.

The 4% per cent loan program has been operating since March, she said. Thus far \$312,000 has been loaned under the program.

What the energy auditors do is inspect your residence for insulation, air leaks, caulking and the various ways energy is used in the home. Besides the Center, energy audits can be done by the Portland Development Commission, and the various energy utilities in the city, she said.

The audit covers things that most homeowners or residents can do for themselves for very little money. Even if someone is contracted to do the work the savings in the energy bill generally will pay for the cost of the loan, Hurato said.

For apartment dwellers or renters, Hurato said that there is still a way to take advantage of the low money.

The renter who is responsible for paying the utility bills can request and receive the energy audit. Or, if the landlord pays the utility bills, the renter can request that the landlord have the audit done if he has not already decided to do so. In this way the landlord, whether or not he or she is a resident of Portland, can secure an 8 per cent loan to have the audit recommendations carried out,

Hurtado said. The only requirement is that the building be in the city limits.

Qualifying for the cheap money is easy. "For a family of four with an income of \$29,700, or a family of two whose total income is \$23,750, both qualify for the low-interest loan," she said.

For those few who might not qualify for the 4% per cent, there is an 8 per cent weatherization and energy improvement loan available, too. Apartment owners generally fit in this category.

For area businesses, Hurtado said that there is a zero per cent loan "to purchase an energy audit by a qualified auditor to identify cost effective techniques that businesses can take."

The audit is done by, say, an architect or someone qualified in this field. "This is our technical assistance program," Hurato said. "Most of the suggestions are not expensive to do. And if the businesses implement the suggestions then the loan is forgiven."

Businesses use more energy than the average home owners, she points out. And the auditor looks at the way that the building is lit, the equipment is operated, or whatever energy requirements and usages are presently in operation.

The operation and maintenance energy audit, as it is called, generally results in an instant payback to most businesses that follow the recommendations, Hurato said.

Those who want to make more extensive improvements in their home energy consumption, such as solar hot water installations in the home, can take advantage of the 4% per cent loan program, Hurato said. Besides the low interest loans to go solar, there are several federal, state and utility rebate and tax advantages that make this program very attractive.

Not every home can go solar—depending on the shading and southern exposure of your residence—but it is a long term savings that cannot be overlooked. Besides the type of space heating in a home, hot water heaters are the most expensive energy user in the home.

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HOW COMING CHANGES IN THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY WILL AFFECT YOU.



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