

Greece School Jumps Into the Computer Age

Since last Fall, St. John the Evangelist School in Greece has provided for their students the opportunity to experience a different level of education than most children their age are exposed to.

The school has 10 Apple II computer terminals in an area coordinated by Mrs. Bonnie Kline and Mrs. Amy Peritsky.

"We're not teaching facts, we're teaching thinking," said Mrs. Kline. "Grades two through eight are taught programming, while pre-schoolers through first are taught education programs."

One example is a program called Math Invaders. It is used for ages three through first grade. It is like Space Invaders except, instead of space ships, simple math problems requiring addition and subtraction move down the screen and must be solved before they reach the bottom.

All children receive training on the terminals. For example, each first and second grader gets at least half an hour each week on the

terminals.

The whole thing began in March 1982 when the Mrs. Kline bought a computer for her home. Soon after, Mrs. Peritsky spent a few days babysitting the Klins' four children and played around with the computer while she stayed there.

What was at first general interest by the two women, turned into a real passion and desire to further the education of the children.

The women approached then-principal Sister Ambrosine Casey with the idea of bringing the computer age to St. John's School.

The first two terminals were purchased last Fall, with the help of funds raised through the Catholic Schools Marathon in October. The current system at St. John's has an estimated value of well over \$10,000, according to Mrs. Kline.

"We bought Apples because the system would be congruous with what the kids would be using across the Greece school system once



Mrs. Bonnie Kline and Amy Peritsky work with fifth grader Chris Annucci.

they graduate," Mrs. Kline said.

Getting the children excited about the computers isn't difficult. At 7:30 a.m., the kids are outside the door waiting to get in when they don't have to begin school until 8 a.m. "But that's nothing compared to the kids who stand outside the door eating their lunch at noon just so they can use the terminals for 15 to 20 minutes," Mrs. Kline said.

And, so far, it seems that the software has accomplished more than its share of helping pick up grades.

"There are a lot of kids who are reluctant readers," said Mrs. Peritsky, "but they find they have to improve to handle the computer."

Mrs. Peritsky, a member of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, works on staff with the Greece Continuing Education Programs, teaching adults computer programming. "People are coming in, asking, 'My kids are learning this stuff in school — How can I keep up?'"

Mrs. Kline also teaches an Introduction to Computers class at St. John's for adults. The Klins have been members of St. John's Parish for seven years.

Lay Campus Minister, Guidance Director, Women's Dean Named

Michael Haugh has been named campus minister director at Cardinal Mooney High School. Haugh, a married father of two, has taught 12 years at the school and has been chairman of the English department, dean of men and a member of both the English and theology departments.

In addition, he has served four years as a member of the Mooney campus ministry team.

For the past six years, he has been a member of a lay Christian community group, pursued theology studies at St. Bernard's and is now applying for entry into the diocesan Permanent Diaconate Program.

The announcement of Haugh's post was concurrent with the naming of Mrs. Diane Wexler as new dean of women at the school and Sister Bryan Ford, RSM, as new director of guidance.

Mrs. Wexler has been a member of the Mooney faculty for the past 16 years. A graduate of Brockport State College, she holds a BS in physical education and an MS in Health.

She serves as a league

representative for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association; as president of the Private Parochial Schools League for Athletic Events; and as Sports Chairperson for Bowling and a Track Official.

She will assume her new duties in September.

Sister Bryan is widely known in the diocesan community. She served for eight years as principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School. With graduate degrees in Theology and Psychology, she has served as dean of women and chairperson of the Mooney theology department for the past two years.

First Prexy

Thomas Nientimp, a 1959 graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School, has been elected the first president of the newly organized alumni association.

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