

## Principal

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example, offer programs to students in their spare time. Argetsinger's drug program, "Law and Society," is a powerful one, illustrating the dangers of drugs and how they can ruin your life.

Assistant Principal Larry Spaulding, who came on board with Sister Hickey 13 years ago, said her dedication to Catholic education has earned her immense respect from students' parents.

"She realizes the very important service we provide for students here. We're the only Catholic high school south of DeSales and west of Seton Catholic in Binghamton," said Spaulding, who is leaving his post at Notre Dame for teaching position in the English department at his alma mater, Corning West. "She's a very strong and able administrator and she has been a very stable element."

Spaulding said Sister Hickey has not been one to avoid controversy, especially when she has felt it was for the betterment of the school. One such healthy risk was the pre-paid tuition program she implemented at the school five



The use of computers has facilitated class scheduling as well as work on the school's annual fund drive. Here, Sister Hickey examines a printout with Suzanne Holahan, director of guidance.

"It was a very sensitive issue. If people decided not to do it that way, we could have lost a lot of students," Spaulding said. "The idea is a good one for two reasons: it helps with cash flow and it eliminates the billing process."

Sister Hickey also spearheaded an effort to set up a board of trustees separate from that of the Sisters of Mercy, which still oversees operations at the Elmira high school. Spaulding said the idea has facilitated school officials' ability to make policy-making decisions.

"It gives the school more autonomy to negotiate teacher contracts (and such) without having to go through the Sisters of Mercy," Spaulding explained. "We assume more liability for the decisions we make, but the benefits outweigh the bad points."

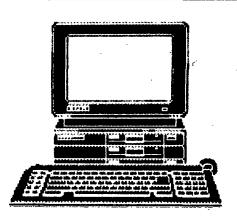
Sister Hickey has also kept up with the computer age, making it easier for the school in such areas as setting up students' schedules and monitoring figures for fund appeals.

"All of these things have strengthened the total structure of the school," Spaulding said. "She carefully researches new ideas and technologies to see if we can implement them without putting a financial burden on the school. She has that vision ... her helping the school is a dynamic process. Notre Dame has always had a reputation for being first in a lot of things. Nothing stands still here?"

And although he looks forward to returning to the classroom full time, Spaulding said he is saddened by his separation from Notre Dame — where he has been for the past 19

"This will probably be the best (administrative) situation I could hope for anywhere," he said. "That's the difficulty with my leaving. We've supported one another for so long."

And weathered a storm or two together as



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