

FYI

January 2

Follow A/A Schedule

January 4

February ACT Deadline

January 7-8

Pick-up report cards

3-5 PM

January 10

Club Meeting Day

January 15

UK Admissions &
Scholarship Deadline

January 18

Key Club Blood Drive

January 20

Governor's Scholar

Deadline

January 21

Martin Luther King Day

NO SCHOOL

February 15

EKU Scholarship
Deadline

February 15

National FFA Scholar-
ship Deadline

BY TARA THOMPSON

It's 8:15 Monday morning and class has just begun. Suddenly, the beep of the intercom can be heard over the entire school.

"Good morning RCMS... I mean RCHS," a voice you've heard before says. You're suddenly thrown into a time warp. Could it possibly be? It is! It's Mr. Hale!

Making the transition from the middle school to the high school were not just the freshmen this year, but also our new principal, Mr. John Hale, who openly admits, "I joked with the freshmen class that I was a freshman too when I met with them earlier in the year, but in some ways I wasn't joking. I was being serious with them."

We know how the freshmen are handling the transition over, but what about Mr. Hale? How did his first semester go as a Rockcastle County High School Rocket?

"The reaction I got from the students when I came in those first opening days of school, and walked down the halls, most of the student seemed happy to see me again," Mr. Hale commented.

We all know that first semesters can be hectic and unnerving, not only for the freshmen, but for sophomores, juniors, and seniors as well. So it is no surprise that Mr. Hale himself got the "back to school jitters," too.

"It was scary and nerveing to come into a new situation. I had to work with teachers that I had never worked with before, and in a building that I had only been in certain parts of before. It's a big place and intimidating for adults just as it is for students," Mr. Hale confesses.

From helping the freshmen find their way to their classes, to remembering where we were going ourselves, the first semester is almost over. We've fallen back into

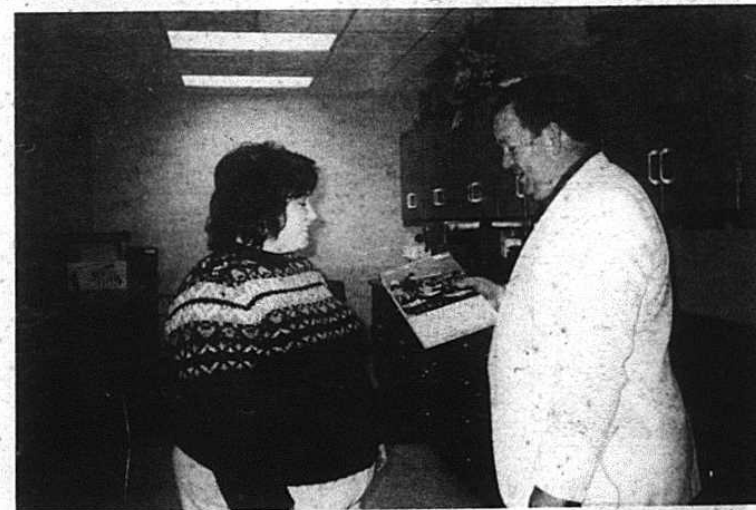


photo by Jamie Ornela

Mr. Hale makes sure he keeps in contact with all of his staff. Here he speaks with counselor Janice Miller.

the daily routine schedule for each day and the back to school jitters have finally left. Now is the time to look back on how it all went.

"I feel much more comfortable at the end of this semester than I did at the start of the year. But I've really enjoyed it. I didn't want to come in and make a lot of sweeping changes, until I at least knew what was going on to start with."

That leads us to question, are there any changes in store for next semester? Inevitably, there are. All for the best of course.

Everyone can remember needing a class changed at the beginning of the year, only to find a line a mile long in front of the counselor's offices. That's all going to change next year.

"We're going to try and do our scheduling a lot earlier in the se-

mester for next year," expresses Mr. Hale. "We're going to try and make things a little easier so when we end this school year, we're more likely ready to start the next school year, and not have students in the hallways all week waiting for their schedules to be changed. I found that to be really disturbing and I don't want that to happen again next year," he said.

An increase in the amount of AP courses available and a more rigorous curriculum to challenge the students more for the upcoming school year has also been suggested and set in mind.

"We want to challenge the students more. I think most of them are getting by too easy," he explained. "When they move on into college they'll be prepared and have a good background here."

Building high standards for our future after high school isn't the only thing Mr. Hale is concerned about. Keeping us in school is a major concern for him.

"The sad part about coming back is not seeing those people that I saw in the middle school, because they aren't here now. That really disturbs me because that's the future of Rockcastle County. If we can't keep our kids in school and help them get those high school diplomas, we're not going to be able to improve the standard of living in Rockcastle County."

As I interviewed Mr. Hale the concern about our future was what his entire focus seemed to be on, and for that we need to help him

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