

ATTENDANCE POLICY: continued from front

Reasons such as this is why student attendance is being stressed. However, opinions vary amongst the staff about the new policy's effectiveness.

Ms. Dana Singleton, a teacher and SBDM Council member says, "I think it's decreased the number of absences." By doing so it has achieved its purpose, she said.

On the other hand, teacher Polly Abney expressed concern that the penalties aren't corresponding to the crime.

"It doesn't make sense," she says, that when students miss they are taken out of even more valuable class time as punishment. Abney has tried to think of a better way herself, but can't find one.

According to Principal Hale, there are few options. "Penalties at our disposal are limited," he says.

Also, Hale added that at least students get more in ISS than by not being in school at all. "Some students have stayed after to make up work," he said.

One of the students' primary

concerns relates to the number of parental excuses allowed.

"People can't afford to go to the doctor and get an excuse every time they are sick," said sophomore Ashley Himes.

Ryan Graham, also a sophomore, has a similar opinion.

"I think that two days isn't enough. If someone is sick and they can't get a doctor's excuse, then they're just out of luck," he says.

These students and many others will be glad to hear that, according to Mr. Hale, there might be some changes next year. Hale says a possibility is going back to 3-parent excuses per semester.

"Students would be able to use those excuses at any point in the semester," he explained.

The policy now stands that students only receive 2 excuses per semester. Those excuses can then be lost if a doctor's excuse is used before them. The reason for the change is to "give students more flexibility," says Hale.

CATS: continued from front

"Year long classes helped but the fact that more teachers were teaching seniors, (3 last year; 6 this year) allowed for smaller class sizes and fewer portfolios teachers were responsible for," Mattingly commented.

Portfolio scores aren't the only part of the test that faculty sees a rise in. The actual CTBS and CATS testing that freshmen, sophomores and juniors participate in should increase, according to

Guidance Counselor Dale Whitaker.

"Scores will go up because there was more focus on the test and the attitude was better this year," said Whitaker.

Guidance Counselor Janice Miller believes the students put more effort into their responses and feels good about what the results will show.

"Even some students that didn't really understand the questions or didn't know the answer tried."

SUMMER PROGRAMS: continued from 5

Youth (HOBY), Roger's Scholars, and National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCEP).

HOBY and Roger's Scholars are both leadership building programs specifically for high school sophomores. HOBY will take place at Transylvania University. Roger's Scholars offers students majors and minors during a week at Somerset.

"I choose engineering... so I'll get to build things," she said.

The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships chose three RCHS students to participate out of thirty national participants. The other two sophomores who will be representing Rockcastle in Washington, D.C. this summer are Cody Moore and Harold Burdette.

Burdette explained that the meeting would be to discuss the Gear Up Program and try to get Representatives to expand on it.

"I think that Gear Up is a very important program. It has helped me a lot, and I want it to help others," he said.

Finally, junior Anna Guilfoil will be participating in the Naval Academy Summer Seminar, an experience she described as "going

through naval academy life in a week."

The seminar involves waking up at 5:30 in the morning to exercise, then attending workshops and mock plebe activities for the rest of the day.

Students can find out about these programs in different ways.

"Normally it is announced or made known to those eligible," said counselor Dale Whitaker.

Moore said he found out about NCEP through morning announcements. Students can also look for opportunities in the *Mt. Vernon Signal* and the community section of the *Sunday Herald-Leader*, or check the scholarship board in the office.

However, many of the students participating in these programs, found out about them through friends and family.

Mullins first became interested in Governor's Scholars because "my cousin Jessica was in it."

Guilfoil found out about the naval seminar through an uncle who attended the academy. Cummins also found out about her programs via family connection. Her sister, Amanda, whom had participated in the programs.

Even after one finds out about a

CORDER: continued from 6

"Being responsible for everything at home has made me realize how important my family is," she said.

That responsibility will increase with the addition of a son. Mrs. Corder and her husband will be making two trips to Russia this summer to finalize an adoption process that began earlier this year.

Though she is leaving RCHS, Mrs. Corder is not leaving teaching entirely.

"Meghan [Corder's daughter] will be starting school soon, and I will have a chance to help her," said Corder.

With her final semester only hours away, it's now time for Mrs. Corder to say goodbye to both students and teachers, and for teachers to say goodbye, as well.

"I think she is a good person and a good teacher," said science teacher Stephanie Harmon, who has known Mrs. Corder for several years. They plan on continuing to stay in touch.

"I will miss my students, there are some I have had a chance to get closer with," said Corder.

Corder has enjoyed her time at RCHS "and the people that have been here."

program, they still have to get in, which isn't always easy considering many such programs mentioned require applications and a selection process. Applications will generally require a list of academic history such as grades and extracurricular involvement, but they also usually require recommendations and essays.

The applications ask for "anything you did, ever," said Mullins.

No matter how one finds out about a program, or how long the application may be, Whitaker encourages students to get involved.

"Students learn a lot about themselves. It can't help but enrich your life."

HARRY POTTER: continued from page 14

that either Ron Weasley or Hermione Granger, Harry's two best friends, will be the one to die.

"They will die, but then return as ghost to help Harry out," Bussell said.

Junior Rachel Childress disagrees with everybody in her idea that it will be Ron's dad, Arthur, that will be killed or die.

This is not the only rumor that is going around about *Order of the Phoenix*. Many believe that there will be much more information supplied about the past of Lily Potter, Harry's mother. She sacrificed herself to save Harry from Voldemort and returned as a ghost to protect Harry from Voldemort at the end of book 4 along with James Potter, Harry's dad.

Sophomore Latoya Lamb also believes more information will be supplied about Lily Potter.

"Harry's mother has been very mysterious throughout the other books, and readers haven't been able to learn much about her," she said. "It is time to learn about her past and what reason Voldemort sought for Harry's parent's death."

Due to the quality and excitement brought throughout the other four books, many readers have high expectations for book 5.

Freshman Heather Hopkins hopes that she will not be let down.

"The other four books were very well written and I look for the same out of book 5. I would really like to see Harry find someone special that he can hook up with."

Wendy's/Citgo

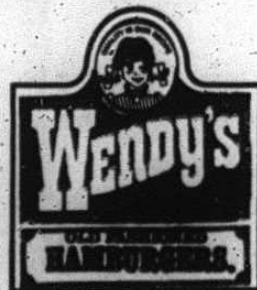
Eat great, even late!

Wendy's: 6a.m.-11p.m. Mon.-Sat.

7a.m.-12p.m. Sun.

Drive Thru open until midnight

Citgo: Open 25 Hours



KFC

• KFC Hours:

Sunday-Thursday

10:00 AM-10:00PM

Friday-Saturday

10:00AM-11:00PM