

New teachers join RCHS, jump right in

BY ALLISON ANDERSON

This school year has brought about many changes and two of those are new teachers: Ms. Hope Benavides and Sergeant Keith Graves.

Ms. Hope Benavides is now RCHS's Spanish teacher while Sergeant Keith Graves is a JROTC instructor.

Last year when Ms. Pam Powell retired, it seemed as if there wasn't anyone who could replace her, but Ms. Benavides is up to the task.

As a Lexington native, Ms. Benavides is like a pro at working in a new school. She has been teaching for 11 years and has been at schools in Fayette, Clark, and Jefferson Counties. When asked why she chose another school, she gave an answer that many new teachers usually give: "to be closer to home."

"I also have a 22 month old son named Roman, and when I am not at school, the rest of my time is devoted to him."

Ms. Benavides, who lives in Richmond and even in the same neighborhood as Ms. Powell, now has a shorter drive to RCHS, which seems to give her more time to be



Sergeant Keith Graves recently joined RCHS's faculty as the new JROTC instructor.

with her son and husband. She also said that Ms. Powell has been a great help.

"Ms. Powell is very nice. She loaded the back of my van up with tons of materials to teach with," she said.

No matter what her motivation was to join the staff at RCHS, her students just appreciate that she did. Students who have not even had her a month already have good things to say about her.

"Ms. Benavides is really interesting. She has shown us

pictures from her trip to Mexico," said junior Jessica Alc  rn.

Exciting plans are also being made for the Spanish students by Ms. Benavides.

"I would like to plan a student trip to Mexico, hopefully around 2005."

The arts and humanities department isn't the only one getting a new addition. Sergeant Keith Graves is a new instructor for the JROTC program. Sergeant Graves, who has been a recruiter and even substituted and drove a

school bus, is a native to Rockcastle. His son Ben attends RCHS and is a junior while his wife, Caroline, is the principal at Brodhead Elementary where his youngest son attends.

Sergeant Graves is very excited about his new position. He will be in charge of the drill team, which consists of everything from ceremonies and marching, to the color guard.

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New coach looks forward to challenge

By MARIA HENSLEY

Coaches may come and go, but Mr. Jesse Mahaffey is definitely looking forward to taking on the challenge of becoming RCHS's next softball coach.

"I love coaching, working with young people, and I love a challenge," said Mr. Mahaffey. "This is definitely going to be a challenge."

Mr. Mahaffey will be taking over for Mr. Clay Dollins who left Rockcastle County schools to join the Madison County school system. Assistant coaches for this year's team will be Mr. David Riddle and Mr. Ken Hopkins.

"We will play it more like the game of baseball," explained Mahaffey about his strategy for this season. "I'm very excited; it's very interesting. We will be learning something new everyday."

Conditioning will be after Christmas and tryouts will be held on February 15 for everyone "except for basketball players and cheerleaders," he said.

Depending on the number of those who try out for the team, between 18-22 girls will make the team. Although not everyone can make the team, all females interested in the sport are encouraged to try out.

"The more people the better."

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"Education is a social process,
Education is growth.
Education is not a preparation for life,
It is life itself."

-John Dewey

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