

# Go to school Get a Job!

When the academic courses got too hot to handle, vocational students were able to take a break — at least for half a day!

Anything from auto mechanics to food preparation was offered for high school credit. Ruffin High School sent students on a bus to attend the vocational school. The masonry class built brick circular bench seating in front of the high school. The vocational school was also able to provide the drafting class with computers which made work easier and more precise.

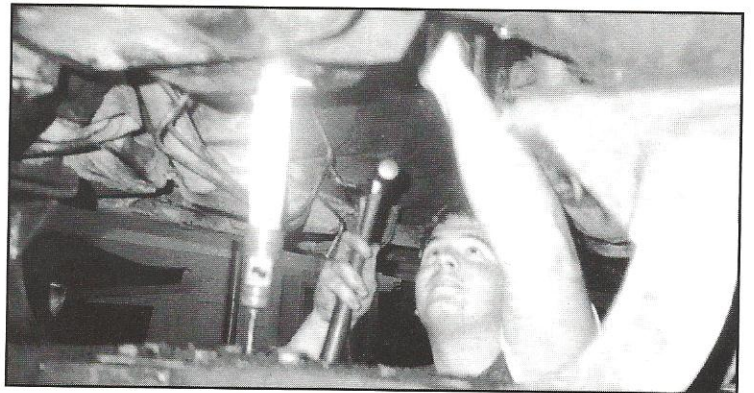
“The computers allow me to save time and have more accuracy in my work,” said senior Shawn Brown.

Courses consisted of two consecutive years of the same vocational skill. Seventy-five to eighty percent of students return for their second year training. In addition to gaining credit towards graduation, students also received valuable job skills in an independent atmosphere.

“I enjoy the atmosphere of the vocational school. It allows you to make choices of your own,” said senior Maurice Flourney.

At the vocational school, students were taught the basic skills needed for the work force. Of the students who completed the vocational school, 71% are placed directly in their area of training, go on to post-secondary education in their area, or enlist in the military.

— Karyn Davis



Senior Kevin Steen works in the machine shop. Kevin was a second-year student in this class.

Senior Marty Stallings looks at the automobile from a different perspective. The auto-mechanics class got a lot of practice by working on teachers' cars.