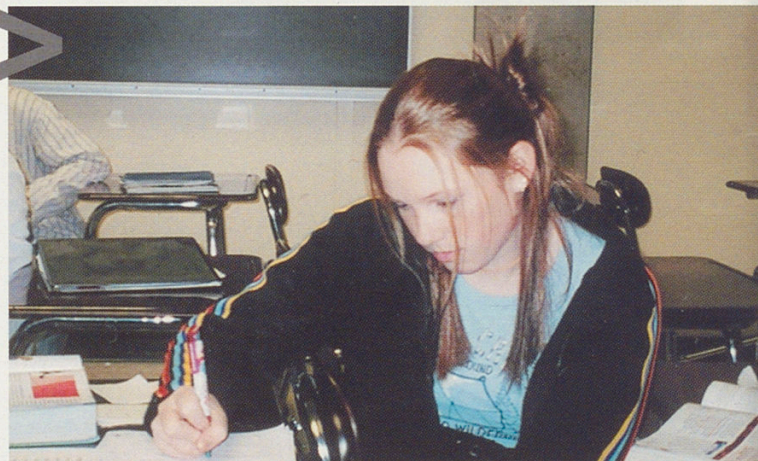


New criteria created by state Department of Education raises the bar

By: Sam Pollak

KELSEY KRESS, 9 PREPARES FOR THE NEW GRADUATION TEST SHE WILL TAKE. The OGT took over the position previously held by the proficiency tests. "I don't think they should make such a big deal about it. They overstress it," said Kress.



"It's good and bad that the [incoming] freshmen don't have to take the proficiency tests."
— Jim Kastrup, 10

State instituted the OGT Freshmen will be the first to take the new graduation test.

THE FRESHMEN WILL BE THE guinea pigs for the Ohio Graduation Test. The OGT replaced the proficiency tests as the newest edition to the graduation criteria. Freshmen will take the OGT during their sophomore year as a prerequisite for graduation. In freshman classes, students prepared for the test with their teachers as part of the curriculum. The teachers also tried to incorporate subjects that are on the OGT into their daily lesson plans. The OGT will be administered during five days. Though it sounds very much like proficiency tests, the format, material, and higher standards make it a brand new test all together.



THE OGT LOOMS OMINOUSLY OVER THE HEADS OF THE FRESHMEN. The future sophomores are subject to multiple practice tests in preparation for their new graduation test. "We're the guinea pigs of the OGT," said John Davies, 9.

