

# Settling down to curriculum changes

## Social Studies department copes with Ohio Graduation Test

By: Megan Jones

**T**he social studies department had a successful year while enjoying new projects and undergoing changes in the curriculum. The new Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) was a large focus for the teachers throughout the year. They not only prepared the students for the test, but also used the test scores as data to help further better education for the students.

The OGT was taken by sophomores in March as a standardized test replacing the Proficiency Test. With this change, the social studies department was forced to rearrange the curriculum. In order to be well prepared for the standardized test, the courses encouraged for the sophomores and juniors have been switched; sophomores were advised to take American history while juniors were advised to take other histories.

Many courses were offered, including all levels of American history, AP European history, world history, geography, government, law studies, current issues, economics, psychology and American military history.

"Psychology is really interesting because we learned about the different ways the mind works," **Carly Gilbert, 12.**

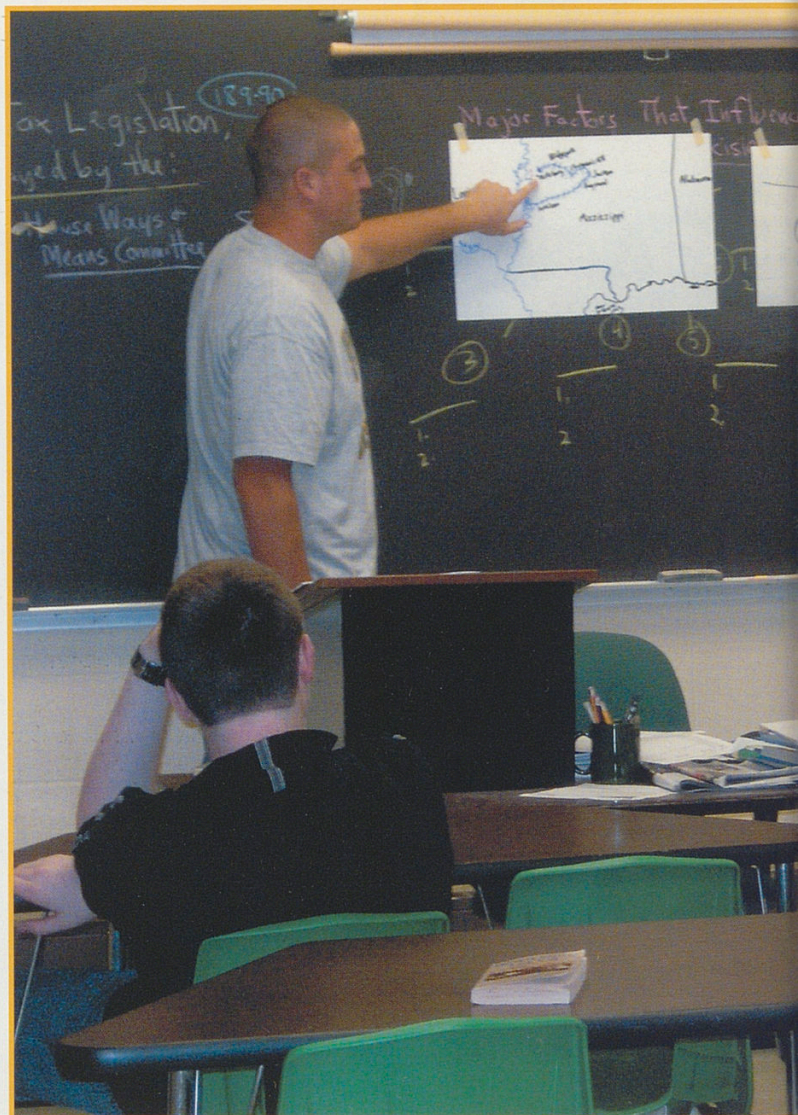
In the AP European history class the students had the opportunity to travel to Europe and tour many different cities. In the World History class the teachers used a portable computer lab on lap tops as a more exciting and organized teaching technique.

Two teachers retired at the end of the year. **Mr. Tim Wolfe**, head of the department, had been teaching for the past 28 years.

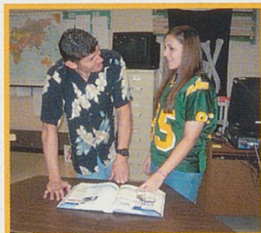
"I consider myself fortunate to be able to teach at this school with the students for as long as I have. It has been a pure pleasure for that and also for the great teachers I have worked with," said **Wolfe**.

After 35 years of teaching, **Mr. Doug Gausmann** also decided to retire.

"I've enjoyed my 35 years teaching, it's a great school with a great student body," said **Gausmann**.



### Talking with Mr. Kevin Wittman



**q:** Have you had to change your teaching style and technique for sophomores?

**a:** A little, I try to do more hands on learning because the sophomores need a little more help focusing than the juniors did.

**q:** Have the sophomores been able to absorb the information as well as juniors?

**a:** Yes, with the right presentation they were able to learn the same material the juniors learned.

**q:** Do you feel this change in curriculum has been successful for the OGT's?

**a:** Yes, they are able to do well on the test, however I feel the test should be used more as an exit test used for older students.



**MRS. VALERIE NIMESKERN WORKS IN HER** office during her planning bell. She was able to catch up on her grading and paper work during this time. Also during her planning bell, students were able to go get help from her.