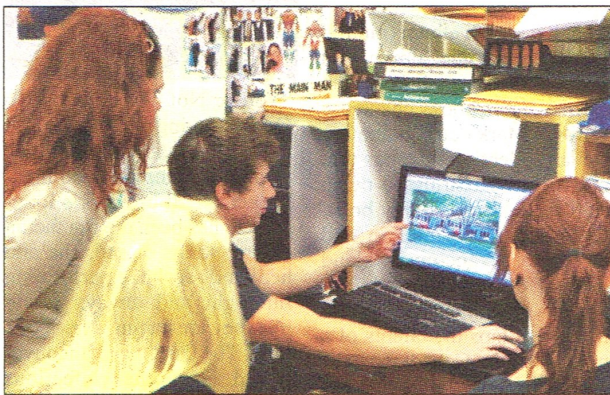


Oaker students making mark on landscapes



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Coventry homeowner Kristy Nolan (far left) looks on as senior Dennis Nye shows her what a potential outcome for her yard could be in class Thursday.

Landscape design students at CHS lend their talents to local property upgrades

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COVENTRY — The classroom was buzzing Thursday morning as high school students scrolled through catalogues of trees, shrubs and flowers in preparation for their ultimate design project.

Landscape Design teacher Joseph Fagnoli explained that typically his students use their knowledge to design a plot on school property. This year however, they decided to choose a home in

the neighborhood and re-design their front yard.

“It was the students’ idea to do the hands on work,” he said. “I thought it would be nice to do something for the community in the neighborhood this year.”

He said the students searched the surrounding streets for a home they could work on; they found a newly remodeled cape.

“I was shocked when they approached me,” said homeowner Kristy Nolan.

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Students at CHS landscape local homes for class credit

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"We've been remodeling the outside; painting, adding new windows, colors and railings. When they told me they wanted to remodel our front yard, I was like, 'absolutely!'"

To begin, the students photographed the home and loaded the images onto a computer.

Fagnoli said the computer software being used allows the students to design the yard with the home in the background, making it more realistic.

Once the designs are complete, students will present the finished product to Nolan, who will choose the one she likes the best.

The students, however, need to remain within the budget they are given. Fagnoli said he was able to get a landscape company, The Lawn Beauticians, Inc., to donate trees and shrubs towards the project.

"The budget for the students is how much [in the cost of] materials gets donated," he said. "So if he brings us seven plants, they add up the price and that's their budget. Then they have to research how much everything costs."

He said two of his students, who are also enrolled in wood shop, will be constructing window boxes for the flowers.

Nolan attended the class Thursday morning in order to meet the students and share her ideas.

"We're looking for pops of color, shrubs, miniature trees, nothing too tall but something that stands out from the normal," she said. "I'm just look-



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A pair of landscape design students test some of their ideas for Kristy Nolan's house on the computer. Students in the class begin with a photo of the house, onto which they can then superimpose different looks for the property using software programs.

ing for different suggestions to make my front yard more appealing."

She made her rounds to each student and gave them ideas on what she would like to see in her yard. She told three students that she is a fan of Japanese Maples.

Senior Dennis Nye explained to her that these trees come in various colors and showed her the way her yard would look if she chose this tree.

"I've wanted to try this class because I enjoy landscaping and I wanted to learn more about it," said Nye. "I also wanted to learn about different shrubs and plants so when I own my own home I know what I want to do with my yard."

Nolan said she was shocked when she walked into the classroom and saw them de-

signing her yard on computers.

"I was expecting to walk in today and see them drawing on paper but I didn't expect the computer program and the way they can generate it now," she said. "They look like they have a lot of good ideas to start with and hopefully we can get local nurseries, local landscaping companies to donate materials so the kids can come out and do what they want to do."

Fagnoli said once the yard is complete a plaque will be placed in the yard letting the community know who designed the yard. Also, any companies that donate materials will also have their names placed on the plaque as well.

He said he is hoping the students will begin work on the yard within a month, before the winter season arrives.