

With signature, it's official: School's out!

June 6, 1990



Johnny Crawford/Staff

Students surround teacher Tracy Moore at Clifton Elementary in DeKalb County trying to get her autograph, a tradition on the last day of school. Cobb and Atlanta students also started

summer vacation today. Students in Clayton and Buford schools were dismissed Friday; Gwinnett schools are out Thursday and Fulton and Marietta schools close Friday.

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## Clifton Literary 'Jeopardy' Game Winners Announced

The Media Center at Clifton Elementary School sponsored a Literature Jeopardy Contest among the fourth-year classes consisting of five categories — Fiction, Authors, Fables, Rhymes and Fairytails.

There were "daily double" points given out on certain questions and all of the questions rated between 100 - 500 points.

The fourth grade students also created commercials which advertised books. These commercial breaks were at various intervals throughout the contest.

Teams faced off in Double Jeopardy and a winning team was chosen. Winning team members

included: Aisha Tiller, Jahan Aahir, Sam Caldwell and Jimmy Omeda.

Other participants included Eva Bidgood, Jacob Seim, Omari Bolden, Nathalia Luna, Aubrey Glencamp, Brandon Shelman, Alana Johnson, Tiffany Mason, Ihsan Ansari, Darrious Gordon, Mercedes Cannon, Quindre Powell, Laquanda Andrews, Chloe Woods, Samuel Nunnally, Shaunteria Dye, Charice Cheavers, Lakithia Gates, Tequila Harper, Donna Brown, Cory Fargo, Steven Westbrook, Ana Hong, Hailey Williams, Wesley Morris, David Pardee, Tommy Bolton and Dennis Williams.

Sub Dept - Elms - Box 62 Clifton Elem

# Study your math — with a mouse



RENEE HANNANS / Staff

**Clifton Elementary** is one of two schools in DeKalb County about to use online "textbooks" to teach math. A student can log on from anywhere to study or do homework. Teacher **William Pacer** learns how it works.

By JEN SANSBURY  
jsansbury@ajc.com  
AJC - 11/10/01

When Clifton Elementary fourth-grader Therese Riza forgot to take her math book home one day last week, she worried all night about her undone homework.

"I almost started to cry," she said. "I thought I was going to get an X on my daily report."

Her mother took her to school 30 minutes early the next morning so she could do her work. "It would have been great if she could have gone online and kept up," Valerie Riza said.

Therese won't have to worry about her book anymore.

Third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students at DeKalb County's Clifton and Laurel Ridge elementary schools are about to become the first in the country with the freedom to leave their McGraw-Hill Mathematics books at school. As long as they have an Internet connection at home, they'll be able to log on to the McGraw-Hill Learning Network to use the recently launched interactive "e-textbook" versions.

"This is brand new. We look into our crystal

▶ Please see WEB, A11

# Dekalb schools to try out online math books

> WEB, from A1

ball and this is what we see," said Joseph Berman, vice president of technology for the McGraw-Hill School Division. The Learning Network is one of the exhibits at the National School Boards Association's Technology + Learning Conference that wraps up today at the Georgia World Congress Center.

McGraw-Hill and its sister company Glencoe, which produces middle and high school books, have recently begun putting some math and science texts on the Web. Berman expects a few districts in other states to try out the elementary math books soon, but none are as far along as Dekalb.

Dekalb's pilot program may begin as early as next week.

The Learning Network site gives access to an electronic version of entire math books, not just supplementary materials that have previously been available on the Web or CD-ROM. Even the page numbers correspond. But it goes beyond duplicating the books by also providing links to demonstrations, additional practice activities, games, short movies and other Web sites.

The e-books are a different way of accessing textbook material. They are not online courses, where students communicate with instructors, turn in work and take tests online but often still use a traditional textbook. Colleges

and universities, including several in metro Atlanta, have offered online courses for several years.

All major textbook publishers are digitizing their materials, but McGraw-Hill has been "leading the parade," said Stephen Driesler, executive director for the school division of the Association of American Publishers in Washington.

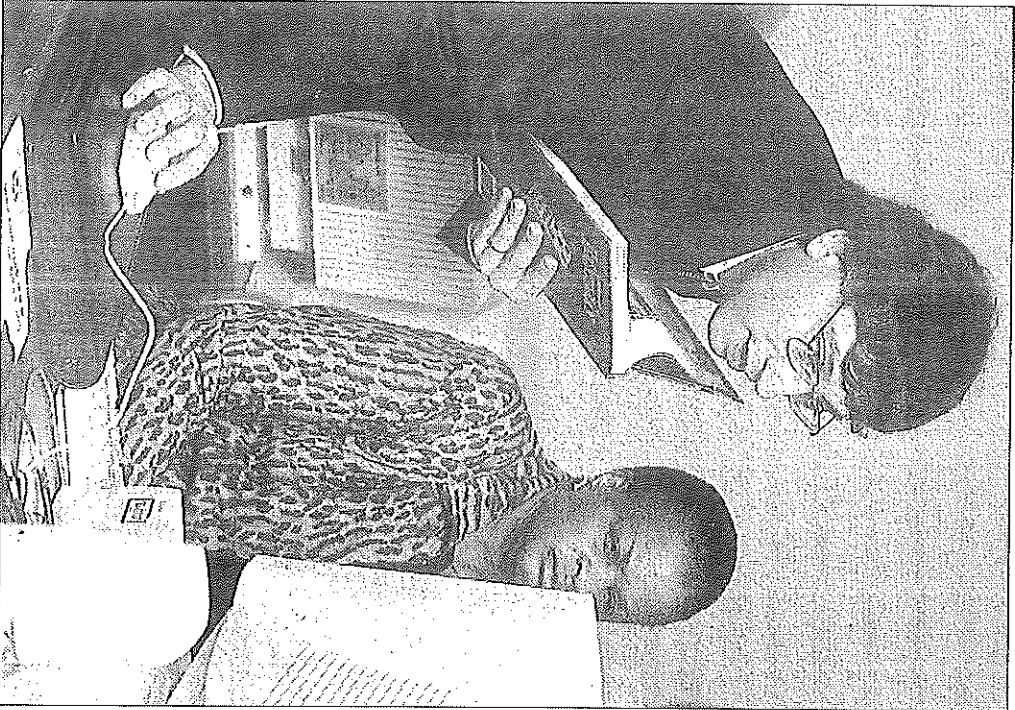
"I don't think it's going to be the norm, but it will certainly be a much larger part of the delivery of content," Driesler said. "Even at the college and high school level, it's in its early developmental stage."

One of the drawbacks is that many students — including some in Clifton's technology magnet program — do not have Internet access at home. So teachers will have to make sure those students can use their regular books to complete assignments or have extra time on the computers at school.

Clifton fourth-grade teacher Katherine Carter said the Web books might even be an incentive for parents to buy a computer. Families will also have access to a parent version with suggested at-home practice activities.

Clifton teachers were positively giddy when they got their first peek at the McGraw-Hill Web book this week.

"Dig this! Manipulatives!" Patrick Edmondson, who teaches gifted students, said when he found an activity he



RENEE HANNANS / Staff

**Joseph Berman, of the McGraw-Hill School Division, helps Jacquelin Porter with online math book software.**

can print out and incorporate into lessons. Carter likes the online book's graphics. Instead of looking at a line graph and a description of how to make it, for example, students will be able to click through an animated pop-up

recognized images from their books. They immediately began thinking about how the e-book will change their lives.

"When your brother's on the Internet, you can tell him you have to do your homework," Christie Foster said.

A significant benefit cited by both children and adults is that the books can stay put, reducing loss and alleviating the burden of carrying them home. Even at the elementary level, the four main textbooks can weigh more than 25 pounds, said Clifton Principal Tracy Moore.

The school system is not paying for the pilot program, but it will have to negotiate a fee with McGraw-Hill if officials decide to expand the access to Web textbooks across the district.

"We're definitely interested," said Jim Robinson, Dekalb's assistant director for textbooks. "[Teachers] will use it awhile and then we want to get input back from them — and they'll get it from parents and students — about whether it's useful."

But industry representatives and educators alike say the online books should not take the place of either a regular textbook or good instruction from teachers and parents.

"The only negative thing I can think of is I hope it doesn't make children lazy about picking up a book," Carter said. "I hope that parents will still sit with children at a computer, and go through their work."





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