

# Harlem High School

(706) 556-5980

1070 Appling Harlem Highway, Harlem, Georgia 30814

(706) 556-5986

*Barry Hemphill*  
Principal

*Dr. Ellen C. Lewis, Assistant Principal*  
*Alan Griffin, Vocational Supervisor/Asst. Principal*  
*Rose Carraway, Assistant Principal*

April 3, 2003

Governor Perdue;

I am a teacher at Harlem High School where I have taught Mathematics since 1983 and have been department chairman for ten years. Since 1990 I have had the pleasure of teaching Algebra I using a computer program Learning Logic. Previous to 1990, I had taught Algebra traditionally.

Learning Logic is an individualized, self-paced program that enables students to take responsibility for their learning. At the end of each lesson, the student takes a mastery test. If he passes, he goes forward to the next lesson; if he does not, he does the lesson again. This means that no student goes forward until he has mastered the material. This is a different approach from the traditional classroom as the entire class moves forward at the same time regardless of whether or not each student has mastered the material. In my experience, students are more focused during the class period and do not become restless. Many of my students are already logged in and at work by the time the tardy tone sounds. Before Learning Logic, about 40% of students failed Algebra I; the failure rate using Learning Logic is down to about 15%.

My role has changed quite a bit as well. Rather than being the teacher in front of the room who is the dispenser of knowledge, I am now a coach-tutor-facilitator, a role I find I really enjoy. I can work with students individually at their point of need. I encourage students to keep trying when they think "it is too hard." If they do poorly on an assignment, I ask them if they would like an opportunity to do it over and then help them with the material so they can do better the next time.

For the past two years, our school, which is a High Schools That Works site, has placed all freshmen in Algebra I unless they took it in eighth grade. So we placed most of our remedial math students in Learning Logic. We are finding that they can indeed learn Algebra, but not at the pace that higher-ability students can. The repetition when they need it combined with the individual attention that is available spells success for them. Often times my students are disappointed to learn that Algebra 2 is not offered on the computer.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me. We here at Harlem High School are so thankful to have this program.

Sincerely,

*Marcia Bailey*

Marcia Bailey