

## Students get different philosophy on learning

Carroll Cleveland Philosophers' Program gives children another chance at learning

By TaLeiza Calloway  
Staff Reporter

Getting children to fall in love with school again is the goal of the Carroll Cleveland Philosophers' Program. This is achieved through a schedule of "gifted education, which is constructivist learning, and service learning," said program director Jennifer Merritt.

The Carroll Cleveland Philosophers' Program has been in existence for four years. Each year the time of the program gets longer. In the beginning, the program was offered a few days per week.

However, with the increased interest of the children and the positive results, it is now in operation Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The main classroom the program meets in is in the basement of Murphy Hall.

Currently the program has 10 students; however they have 25 spots available. The age range of the students is 12 through 16 years.

In order to be accepted into the program the students have to be accepted by the Cleveland Municipal School District, want to participate in the program, and have an entrance interview.

In addition to Merritt, other people help keep the program running. They are teachers Daniel Heintz, Clarence Lewis, Romonia Longs, Kenneth Alexander, Valenta Ward-Gravelly, Mrs. Evans and Roslyn Smith, director of operations. According to Smith, "The unity of the staff adds an essence of family."

The children take English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Literacy, a counseling course called "Touching Spirit Bear," Art, Health and a gym course. In addition to this busy schedule, the students also have an op-

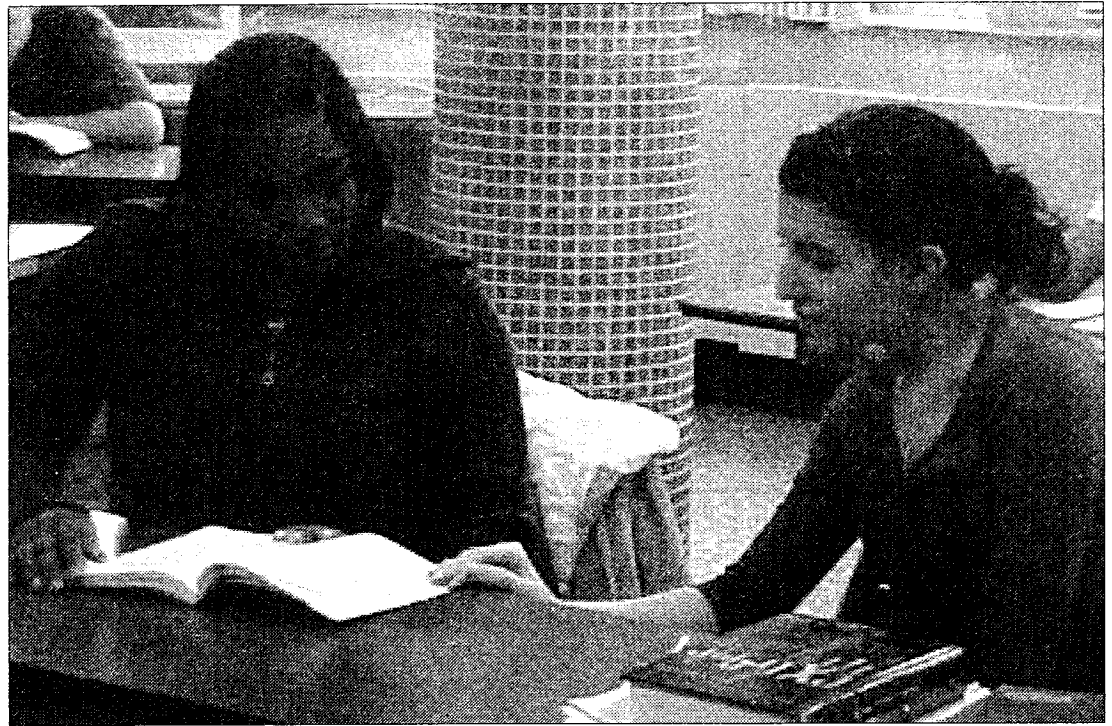


PHOTO BY HEATHER WOOD

**Fifteen-year-old Ashley McLemore, left, gets help from sophomore Laura Esposito on an assignment. McLemore is a student and Esposito volunteers with the Cleveland Carroll Philosophers' program. Currently, the program has 10 children enrolled.**

portunity to take a Philosophy class. Two John Carroll faculty members teach this part of the program: Sharon Kaye and Mariana Ortega.

An important part of their curriculum is enrichment. The students engage in enrichment every other day and on Fridays they actually take field trips to various places such as The Cleveland Museum of Art, The Science Center, and the Cleveland Sight Center, where they serve as mentors to the residents.

In the program, children are given the opportunity to succeed, which is something that was hard for them to do in the regular school system. Some of the barriers in the children's past

were truancy, behavior problems and rejection from the individual schools they attended.

However, it is a very different story here at John Carroll.

Attendance in the program is not a problem for the students. Nothing seems to keep them away. What makes the children want to come back every day is what they gain personally.

"I've gained more self-discipline, respect, and a goal to be somebody," said student Ashley McLemore.

The Carroll Cleveland Philosophers' Program truly helps students "develop their own philosophy of life and be able to establish their own values," Smith said.

This appears to be happening because in the eyes of student Christian Mitchell, "I see a side of myself I've never seen before."

John Carroll students also work and volunteer in the program. This is truly a rewarding experience for both the children and the students.

The relationships that form are genuine and the students appreciate the time that volunteers spend with them. They have actually written thank you letters to the John Carroll helpers.

CCPP provides the children with a second chance at education. The program helps them "feel good about themselves and be excited about learning," Smith said.