

GRADING SYSTEM

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is that we're jumping into a grading system before anyone knows what the rules are."

According to the bill, once the new criteria are determined, FLDOE will publish two sets of school grades at the end of the school year: the official grade, using the old criteria, and an "FYI release of new school grades" that is unofficial and will utilize the new criteria. The new criteria will be used officially for school grades for the first time in 2010.

"The implementing of the grading system this soon is a bit disconcerting," said Sidener.

According to Karen Rivo, PTSA President, inadequate funding for Miami-Dade County Public Schools poses another problem for implementing the new grading system.

"Until the state properly funds this new mandate, including increased funding for additional AP/IB classes and free SAT or ACT tests, it will only promote more inequity in our schools," she said.

How do you say Goodbye in Turkish?

Beloved math teacher and girls' soccer coach leaves Beach High.

BY JOSELYN GARCIA
AND MIRIAM KOLKER

Math teacher and girls' soccer coach Kerim Yalim will ride his scooter to school for the last time on Feb. 6, 2009. He leaves Beach High behind to pursue work as an engineer in Jacksonville, Florida.

"I strongly feel that I need to work on some parts my life and need to expand," Yalim said. "I have been thinking about some of my plans and it seems this is the right time to take charge."

Yalim immigrated to America from Turkey when he was 18 years old and came to Miami after graduating from the University of Florida with a degree in Civil Engineering.

"He was crazy cool," said sophomore AJ Mamber. "I learned more from him in six months than I did in the three years I've taken

mathematics."

His teaching career started when a friend of his, former Beach High English teacher Jill Seppanek, suggested he would be good at teaching. Since the job would leave him with summers off, he decided to try his hand at it.

"Of course, I love the job now because of the kids," he said.

According to Math Department Chair Gladys Arias-DiSpaldo, students and staff alike responded well to Yalim. "It's a big loss for the department," Arias-DiSpaldo said. "He was part of the team that was very successful last year."

Yalim also spent his time at Beach High as the



KRISTEEN PAWLY/BEACHCOMBER

TURKISH DELIGHT: Kerim Yalim teaches his last student, senior Alejandro Rabelo.

girls' soccer coach. Playing since the age of five, Yalim wanted to gain more experience coaching.

"I knew I was a good player and wanted to see if I could be a good coach," he said.

Yalim's replacement, Mr. H. Orelus, taught at Beach High last year until he was furloughed by state budget cuts.

"I know they will find somebody good to replace him," said math teacher Ben Silva, "but as far as a friend, you can't replace him."

According to Yalim, Beach High and the girls' soccer team will always have a special place in his heart. "I am definitely going to miss the scooter ride to work every day," he said.



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"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death"

By Albert Einstein

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