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**Cornelia, Georgia**

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## Education

### 'Island' experience designed to help improve student achievement at SHMS

*Friday, November 11, 2005 9:53 AM EST*

Don't be surprised if you visit South Habersham Middle School and see a Tiki hut and palm trees. It is all part of the island theme being carried out in the school's plan to increase student achievement.

"Achievement Island" is a place where students will be challenged to ride the wave that will lead them to academic success.

The news about not meeting Annual Yearly Progress, as specified by No Child Left Behind, hit the SHMS staff like a monsoon. However, rather than being discouraged, the faculty and staff have seized the opportunity to turn the monsoon into an island oasis of success. In fact, many of the South Habersham teachers have volunteered to come to school early to tutor students in reading, language arts and math. In addition, many teachers are offering after-school remediation for struggling students.

An integral part of the Achievement Island remediation program being offered at SHMS is a practical and effective Web-based computer program entitled Study Island. South Habersham is one of the first schools in Georgia to implement this program.

Students simply log on to Study Island from anywhere. All they need is an Internet connection. Students master topics aligned to the Georgia Performance Standards and tested on the CRCT. Each topic is directly aligned to one of the Georgia Performance Standards and contains a straightforward lesson and assessment questions with detailed explanations that provide automated instruction.

Teachers have access to a private page where they can view detailed real-time progress reports for an individual student as well as their class as a whole, which makes it easy to identify deficiencies. In addition, teachers can compare their students' performance against other students in Georgia.



*South Habersham students and faculty participate in "Achievement Island," a new program designed to increase student achievement.*



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Students in other states who have fully completed the program have seen an average of a 12.2-percent increase in scores on the state-mandated Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT). South Habersham's remediation program, Achievement Island, is not an effort to compete against other schools but rather an attempt to challenge the students to personally strive for continuous improvement in academics.

In addition to the Web-based program, students will receive one-on-one tutoring from teachers who are volunteering their time before and after school. Finally, because Study Island is completely Web-based, students can use it at school or home and can study and learn at their own pace.

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