

Freshman prodigy breaks the underclassman mold

By Robert O.

Jolly Roger

Each year, several freshmen enter the halls of Jack Britt, anxious to start their first day. Typically, freshman enroll in algebra one or geometry. Freshman Derek C. however, achieves more than the average student.

“I skipped 6th grade, half of 7th, and half of 8th.” said Derek, explaining how he is able to attend high school while he is barely thirteen years old. “The high school said I was too young, when I skipped half of 8th grade. So I had to repeat 8th grade at Hope Mills Middle School,” said Derek.

In addition to skipping a few grades, Derek is also in Algebra 2. “I took Algebra one the first time I was in 8th grade, and I took geometry my last 8th grade year at Hope Mills middle,” said Derek.

Making academic achievements can cause a student to feel some social awkwardness, Derek says that the most amount of awkwardness comes from the fact that he didn't go to the same middle school as some of the other Britt students. “I came from Hope Mills Middle, so I don't really know all of the John Griffin people,” said Derek.

Derek is also highly active in music. At a young age, he began playing the piano and picked up playing the violin at age eleven after watching an orchestra concert. Derek regularly plays for his church and is trying out for all county, all state, and CCYO.