EDUCATION
CONNECTION

Senior helps first graders learn; shares love for technology

by Sutton Travis

Eyes intent on the glowing monitor, senior **Dontae Anthony** points out an icon to the young boy anxiously hunched in front of the computer screen. As the boy breathes a sigh of relief and excitedly thanks him, a warm smile spreads across Anthony's face because this – helping others through his knack with computers – is his passion.

Anthony participated in career technology teacher Colette DePriest's Instructional Practices in Education course, working as an aide for first grade teacher Donna Jones during second and third period.

"I started working at the Primary school at the beginning of the year," Anthony said. "My favorite part of working there is getting to hang out with the kids and helping them each day."

During a typical day, Anthony completes various tasks Jones assigns to him, including passing out worksheets and assisting the first graders with classwork and spelling words.

"With a smile and a hug, Dontae greets the first graders he helps each day," Jones said. "They love him and always want his assistance with reading, math and computer programs. He is so very kind and patient."

Although Anthony was not responsible for disciplining the students, he did occasionally have to gently remind them to behave.

"They don't always listen, and they fight a lot – they are little kids," Anthony said. "I really just have to tell them when to lower their voices and sit down."

Besides working in the classroom, Anthony also accompanied Jones' class on field trips to help keep an eye on the students.

"In October, we spent an entire day at the First United Methodist Church's pumpkin patch," Anthony said. "While we were there, we learned about the different types of pumpkins. We also got to pick some pumpkins and go on a hayride."

Despite his experience as an aide, Anthony currently does not plan to pursue a career in education.

"I plan on working with computers," Anthony said. "I would like to open a computer shop or possibly teach people about computers. From working with the little kids, I've learned that sometimes even the smartest people need help."