

**Five Years of Success: A Symposium  
Computer-Assisted Precision Instruction  
at Sullivan South High School  
Students and Teachers Love It!!**

**Charles P. Olander, Robert S. Spangler, John Dixon,  
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Terry Taylor, Gayle Bogart and Russell McGaha**

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A program using computer-assisted Precision Learning techniques is being used at Sullivan South High School in Kingsport, Tennessee. The program began in the 1988-89 school year and is now in its fifth year of operation. Initially the program started with 80 advanced placement students, three classes, three subjects and four computers. Currently the program has 285 students (all levels), fifteen classes, six subjects, nine computers and a full time manager. Overall the results show an improved attitude about Precision Learning, significant academic improvement, and a feeling of accomplishment by all students involved.

In the Computer-Assisted Learning Laboratory (CAPLL), learning is approached from the perspective of the Personalized System of Instruction (PSI). Course material is broken into a given number of units designed by the instructor. Students have the option of repeating a particular unit in an attempt to master the material. To encourage rapid progress and to prevent procrastination, instructors set target dates for given amounts of material to be mastered.

Instructors choose mastery criteria, practice formats, test formats, and feedback conditions for their students. Large test item pools have been developed to allow students to repeat testing without penalty until mastery is obtained. The computer testing program allows instructors to collect and maintain files of student responses and to assess item analyses based on student performance. This advanced technology provides rapid, continuous, on-line data collection for tracking performance of both individuals and groups of students.

CAPLL is available for use by the students from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students are allowed class time for testing once a week. They are also encouraged to schedule testing times before school, during a study hall, during their lunch breaks, or after school. At the end of each drill or test, the student views the results of his/her performance and plots on the daily Celeration Chart. A sample chart is included here. Instructors collect data weekly for analysis.

In addition to reaching high levels of performance, students are expected to experience personal growth as well. As a result of this approach to learning, students learn to take responsibility for their own learning -- rather than blaming a teacher. The students learn "how to learn" and are able to apply this process to other courses.

As a result of the computer-assisted Precision Teaching, students have shown outstanding progress. The data reveal increased frequencies of correct responses and percentage correct not only within, but across, units. Also, this is evidenced by improved classroom discussions and application of these concepts by improved

problem-solving skills and essay performance.

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### A "Timely Message"

Precision Teaching Logo Watches are now available. The watch is a full color Chart background with Precision Teaching/ Celerate then Celebrate imprinted on the face. It is has a goldtone case, sweep second hand, precise quartz movement, black leather band and two-year warranty. The watch is available in a unisex style for \$37.50 each. Please allow 8 to 10 weeks for delivery.

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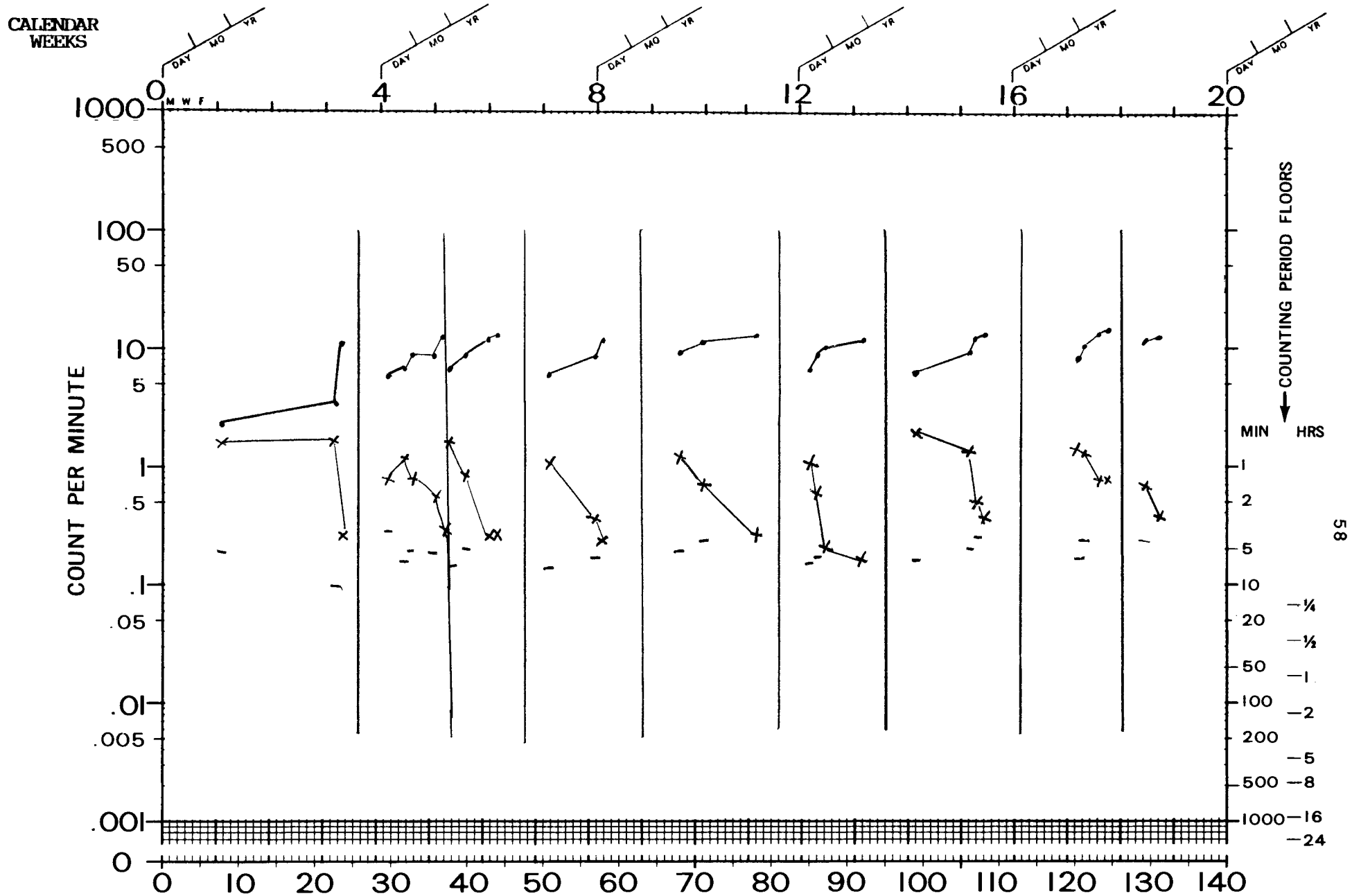
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