



GREVILLE ROSS | THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Kellam High junior Samantha Hardee leads fifth-graders in a spelling exercise as part of the Teachers for Tomorrow program.

TODAY'S TEENS, TOMORROW'S TEACHERS

VIRGINIA BEACH

Six years from now, 16-year-old Samantha Hardee could be a teacher in Virginia Beach schools.

If she's good enough, she might even land a guaranteed contract before she leaves high school.

Hardee is one of 87 Beach high school students taking the Teachers for Tomorrow course.

The program is being test-

ed in four schools this year but will be offered in all 11 of the city's comprehensive high schools next year.

The guaranteed contracts

will be inked with one or two seniors at each school that offered the program this year.

Superintendent Jim Merrill suggested the contracts as a way for the school division to "grow" more of its own teachers.

Education programs in Virginia don't produce enough new teachers, especially in areas such as math, science, foreign languages and special education, said John Mirra, director of human resources for Beach schools.

See BEACH, PAGE 4

job after college

One or two standout seniors from each participating school will be eligible for a guaranteed contract, providing a job in the Virginia Beach school system upon college graduation.

By LAUREN ROTH | *The Virginian-Pilot*