A group of teachers learn to use word processors while watching instructional video tape on large screen, upper left.

**LPB used to make classes interesting**

By JOHN SEMIEN
Advocate staff writer

During school hours, teachers across the state tune in Louisiana Public Broadcasting for programs that make learning more interesting for captive classroom audiences.

Since LPB started on WLPB, Channel 27, in 1975, the station has consistently provided instructional aids to teachers through programs on a wide range of subjects in education. The programs have developed from dull classroom dramas to slick, colorful formats designed to make learning more fun.

Viewers can even get a high school equivalency diploma or college credit for watching some of the programs, as well as follow what their children are learning in school.

"If you sit at home Monday through Friday you can see what your children are using if that teacher has it to assist in her class," said Ayan Rubin, programming director for the state Department of Education. "In fact, we get a lot of comments from viewers at home who are learning history or French.

"Science people watch science programs, math people watch math programs to check them for curricular content," Rubin said. "My staff and I check them for technical quality, whether it's a good TV show. We know it's being used by the number of teachers who call in about it,"

Rubin said about 25 percent of the programming is changed each school year. Teachers are provided with schedules, and workshops are held at schools to help school officials to better utilize the service, she said.

"The main thing about instructional television is that it is different from commercial television, not only in the fact that it is designed primarily for kindergarten to 12th grade classes, but also all the programs have learning objectives," she said.

WLPB executive producer Beth Courtney said education is still the basis of public television, despite the differences in the programming between school hours and the rest of the daily programs.

"What it's evolved into now is the ITV people choose school hour programs that best fit their curriculum," she said. "We really program all of the other hours. But together I think we have a common purpose of providing educational opportunities."

Courtney said the variety of programs offered make learning more interesting.

"It doesn't have to be straight blackboard talk," she said about educational programs. "A long time ago that's what public or educational television was, one camera with a teacher standing in front of a blackboard giving a lecture. "It's now progressed to the point where you have things like Sesame Street and Electric Company."