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Anniversary event Saturday

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FREMONT -- In the early days of Vanguard Career Center, computer use consisted of data processing that occurred on giant computers that were 6-feet tall, a teacher said.

"Now we have laptops that do all of that and more," said John Rizzardi, a Vanguard English teacher who has worked there since the school opened.

And technology is just one example of how far the school has come in its 40 years. Alumni -- all 24,000 of them -- students, staff, and friends are invited to celebrate Vanguard's anniversary during an ice cream social Saturday.

"The idea of it was kind of a Vanguard reunion," Rizzardi said. "It's an opportunity to talk to some of your old friends and teachers. It's a fun thing to see former students are doing."

Vanguard trains students -- including Fremont Ross and Port Clinton high school students --from area high schools in auto mechanics, cosmetology, medical fields, greenhouse management and other hands-on careers. Through the years, the school has modified its programs and added new ones to meet the changing needs of society, he said.

"In the 40 years we've been operating, we've never gone back to the taxpayers and ask for more money," he said. "That's pretty amazing."

Some of Rizzardi's former students now teach at Vanguard, and he said others plan to attend the anniversary event.

"It's always great to hear about how they're doing and their families," he said.
