



WELCOME TO NHS—Vice Principal Carl E. Ahee and Principal Dale Harter welcome Student Body President Arlene Lesar to North High School, which will open its doors on Sept. 14. Some 1160 students are expected to attend the school on opening day.

Education Has Parents Concern

By CLARA SAVAGE LITTLEDALE
Editor, Parents' Magazine

Perhaps parents have never been more concerned than they are today with what their children are learning at school and the conditions in the schools themselves. This is a good thing. For after all, they are our children and our schools and free education in a democracy aims for the best in education for every child.

But today all sorts of voices are raised in criticism of our schools. This is a good thing, too, when the critics are well-informed. It may be a potentially dangerous thing when they are not.

Today one of the chief charges made against our schools is that they are not teaching our children to read. There are those who declare they are also failing to learn arithmetic, that they write illegibly and can't spell. In other words, education is not what it used to be.

Before anyone joins in such wholesale criticism, he ought to be sure of his facts. Do you realize, for instance, that various studies and tests prove that children are doing better in reading, writing and spelling than ever before?

Take for instance, eight-grade children's ability in reading. Both in the United States and in Great Britain studies prove that 80-85% are reading on or above eighth grade level. This is a high percentage of success.

The fact that close to 2,500,000 of our high school graduates were attending colleges and technical schools in 1952-53, testifies that children are learning to read and spell and write and do arithmetic or they never would have been able to enter these schools where the requirements are high.

When it comes to finding fault with modern methods of teaching, most laymen are on unsure ground. These methods are based on careful research to ascertain how children learn best and most quickly. They also take into consideration the fact that no two children are alike in ability and attainment.

That is why, for instance, in the teaching of reading, the teacher adopts her methods to meet the needs of the particular child.

By Way of Example
With the child who learns most easily through his eyes she stresses seeking words as a whole or in a group; with the child who learns more easily with his ears—she stresses the saying out loud of words and groups of words; with the child who learns quickest through his sense of touch she encourages writing words over and over or perhaps tracing them with his finger.

But I don't want to be too technical. Neither do I want to talk only about children in the lower grades.

Too often, parents maintain an intense interest in schools when their children are in the lower grades but lose interest when their children are in the junior high school or high school classes.

Perhaps this is because they find that as children grow older, they are less eager to have their parents visit school. The junior high school or high school boy or girl may even be a little embarrassed to have Mother or Dad appear in the classroom.

If this is so, perhaps it is better to express your interest in some other way. There are still times, of course, when conferences with teacher or principal are necessary and desirable.

Every youngster, no matter what his age, is also glad to have his parents show their interest by rooting for the home team at games and attending the concerts, plays and other entertainments put on by the school.

Attitude Is Important
Some schools have welcomed mothers who have special skills such as the knowledge of library work, secretarial ability, musical or artistic talents, or first aid skills. Most of our schools are short-handed these days and offers of assistance are often most welcome if they can be carried out with efficiency.

Then, of course, your whole

Safety Factor Put in Clothes

Wearing apparel with a built-in feature to help prevent dark-to-dusk traffic accidents is scheduled to be available for children in time for the 1955 school season.

The safety feature is made possible by perfection of a yarn called "Election" that is being woven into fabrics of which outer garments are made.

The yarn instantly reflects the beam of an automobile headlight, alerting the driver to the presence of a child he might otherwise have difficulty seeing, yet it is not visible in ordinary daylight.

The yarn is scheduled to be used in jackets, sports shirts, rain coats, hats, belts and snow suits. The yarn was developed by the Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. after years of research.

Young Matrons Being Recruited As Street Crossing Guards

The newest worker recruited into the job of protecting children on their way to and from school is Mother.

Each year, more cities and towns are adopting the idea of using young matrons to supplement the safety work now being done by the regular police and the School Safety Patrols—particularly the latter, as the ladies usually work directly with the boys and girls of the Patrols.

As the new school year approaches, the corps will be larger than ever, and many communities will be getting a first look at the smartly uniformed young mothers controlling traffic.

Not Enough Police
Corps of adult crossing guards, as they are called in most places, are not being organized because either of the other groups is not doing a good job. Wherever there is a policeman on duty to help youngsters across the street, there is little likelihood of any sort of trouble.

The problem here is that there just aren't enough policemen to cover all crossings where protection is needed.

The School Safety Patrols do an equally fine job. The American Automobile Association, one of the pioneers of the Patrol movement, reports that since the Patrols were organized about 30 years ago there has been a 40 per cent reduction in the traffic death rate for 5 to 14 year old groups—the age bracket the Patrols primarily protect—while the rate for all other age groups has risen about 90 per cent.

Nevertheless, the assistance of trained adults is sorely needed in many places. It has been a long standing rule that Patrol boys and girls are not allowed to direct traffic. Their job is to hold other children on the sidewalk until it is safe for them to cross. As traffic conditions become heavier, it is increasingly difficult for a schoolboy Patrolman to find sufficiently large gaps in the traffic flow to send schoolmates across busy streets.

Teamwork between the Patrol sentinels and adult crossing guards eliminates this problem. Trained by the police, the women guards have the authority to stop vehicular traffic, even though few of them have full police power.

The women's authority to arrest violators of traffic laws is limited in most places but they all have the citizen's right to report witnessing an offense to the police.

Loss of Car Cover
A car cover, valued at \$18, was taken off his 1954 model car Friday night, George Coward, 23108 Fallina, reported to local authorities.

Schools Have Program for Handicapped

As a cooperating member of the Southwest Districts Special Education program, the Torrance Unified School District will be able to provide for physically handicapped and severely mentally retarded pupils this fall, according to school officials.

Each school district in the program will provide facilities for one type of handicapped pupil, with the Torrance district offering a class at Perry School for children with only partial vision.

Classes are available for blind, deaf, hard-of-hearing, orthopedically handicapped, cerebral palsied, and severely mentally retarded children at other cooperating schools in this area. Parents who have questions about the program may call the special services division of the schools, FA 8-0540.

PLAIDS ARE POPULAR
Plaids, from Black Watch with its deep blues and greens to the gay Campbell and the quiet Glen Plaid, will take a more prominent position than ever in classroom banding this year. They are shown for all age groups from kindergarten to college.

attitude toward the school is of immense importance. You can't expect a child of any age to like his teacher and be loyal to his school unless he finds the same attitude at home.

There is no greater service that parents and friends of children can give our schools than interested, understanding sup-

port. At the same time, if you feel something is wrong, you should feel free to call up and make an appointment to see your child's teacher or the principal of his school.

And try not to do this with a chip on your shoulder.

By and large, school people are a devoted group, interested to see that your child gets the most out of his school life and that he grows and develops into the best kind of a person he can be. With your help this is possible.



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