

School Officials Say Torrance System Meets National Standard

How do Torrance high schools compare with other schools across the country? Pretty well according to a report drawn up by local school administrators comparing local practices with the recommendations and figures contain in the report on "The American High School Today," prepared by Dr. James B. Conant, former president of Harvard.

Referred to generally as the "Conant Report," the findings of the noted educator, who made his survey under a Carnegie Foundation grant, were presented to the city's board of education last week.

Conant reports on the practices at many high schools throughout the country today, and makes a number of recommendations. Set forth is an academic inventory (check list) of things to look for in judging the instruction of brightest students.

1. Does the school have a full-time counsellor for each 250 to 300 students?
 A—Yes. Figures vary at the schools, but there is one for at least each 275 students.

2. Does the school provide an individual program for each student? Does it decline, (as it should) to label students as college preparatory, vocational, or commercial?
 A—Yes, in both instances.

3. Do the high schools require four years of English, three or four years of social studies, one year of math, one year of science, and a "significant" sequence of electives?
 A—Yes, except Torrance requires only three years of English. However, nearly all top students are counselled into a fourth year. Significant electives include foreign language, art, music, business, industrial arts, home economics and others.

4. Are students grouped by ability, subject by subject?
 A—Torrance does this by counselling students and by setting up requirements for more advanced courses.

5. Is each graduate given a durable, permanent record of his high school courses and grades?
 A—No. However, students may obtain transcripts for their own use or that of prospective employers, upon request.

6. Does the time devoted to English composition during four years amount to about half the total time given to the study of English? Is a school-wide composition test given in each grade?
 A—Yes, composition is emphasized in Torrance. No school-wide composition test is given.

7. Are there varied programs amounting to about half a day in the 11th and 12th grades for vocational course students?
 A—Yes. Torrance has pioneered a work experience program, similar to, but not exactly like Dr. Conant's suggestion. It is generally considered one of the best in the state.

8. Is special attention given slow readers? Are ninth graders who read at sixth grade levels getting special attention and special teachers?
 A—Yes. Every attempt is made to catch poor readers before high school, but special reading classes for students with bad reading problems are available. One high school is trying to group poor readers in the same English-social studies class.

9. Are the top three per cent of the students identified by the seventh or eighth grade?
 A—Yes. Torrance tries to identify them by the second grade.

10. Are there special elective courses and counseling set-ups for the brightest students?
 A—Yes. Special committees in each high school plan programs for brightest students. Also available for top students are summer school classes, special honors courses, and courses at El Camino College. Further plans are under study for next year.

11. Do annual academic inventories (check lists) summarize the programs of the brightest students for the school board's information?
 A—Yes. The school board received one last week.

12. Are there six periods in addition to required classes in physical education and driver training?
 A—Not at present. However, officials are studying plans to allow at least the brightest students to take seven classes per day, starting next September.

13. Are standards set up for advanced courses so that students must show their ability before taking increasingly difficult work?
 A—Yes. A "C" grade is required for advanced courses; a "B" grade is required for honor courses.

14. Does the school district decline to rank its students (which sometimes encourages bright students to take "snap" courses)?
 A—Yes. However, the schools do rank students upon graduation, because many colleges require this information.

15. Are lists of top students with "B" averages published when grades are released?
 A—Yes. Announcements are made of students chosen for the California Scholarship Federation each semester.

16. Does the school have developmental reading program?
 A—Yes.

17. Does the school board operate a tuition-free summer school, designed to help both slow and bright students?
 A—Yes. Torrance has done this since 1947.

18. Do capable students take four years of one foreign language?
 A—Not at present. Until "Sputnik," schools had trouble getting students to take languages beyond the minimum required for college. However, the district is moving in this direction. Torrance offers four years of Spanish and will add the fourth year of French and German next year.

19. Are students required to take at least one course (divided by ability) in science?
 A—Yes. One year of science is required. Classes are divided according to student ability and future educational goals.

20. Are home rooms organized to provide a good cross-section of the community to allow an understanding between brighter and slower students?
 A—Yes.

21. Is there a twelfth grade social studies class to develop an understanding of the American form of government and the economic basis of our free society, as well as helping students to respect and understand each other?
 A—Yes.

ACCORDING to local school officials, the comparison indicates the following:

1. The three Torrance high schools generally practice 18 of the 21 recommendations which Dr. Conant identifies as being the characteristics of a good comprehensive high school.

2. If Torrance High and North High had been included in a survey of 23 high schools studied by Dr. Conant, they would have ranked third and fourth in the percentage of brightest boys taking a maximum number of academic subjects. Both would rank about average in the number of bright girls taking these subjects. (South High was not compared, since it has no seniors this year).

3. Comparisons of subjects taken by brighter students at Torrance High and North High show that in 74 of 106 categories, local students took as many or more academic subjects as the average brighter pupil in the 23 selected high schools. In an additional 14 categories, the local schools ranked only slightly lower. Torrance schools ranked consistently lower only in music and art. (None of the 23 schools in the survey ranked 100 per cent, since different schools tend to emphasize different areas).

"THE RESULTS of this academic inventory will help the counseling staffs of the high schools work on areas which need special attention," commented Dr. Albert Posner, assistant superintendent.

According to the Conant Report, there are a number of things which a comprehensive high school program should have. His recommendations in forms of questions, along with the answers to those questions

AN ACADEMIC inventory compiled by local administrators, involving a comparison of classes taken by the top 15 per cent of local seniors with those taken by the brightest group surveyed in the Conant Report shows:

1. Social studies—Far more North and Torrance High students take these courses, particularly advanced courses.

2. English—More North High students take advanced English courses than the Conant group average; the number at Torrance High is about at the na-

tion average.

3. Math—More North High students take advanced math than the selected school average; Torrance High is slightly below the national average.

4. SCIENCE—For some reason, North High School boys and Torrance High School girls take more science courses than the Conant average. Torrance High School boys rank about average; while North High School girls take slightly fewer courses than average.

5. Foreign language—In beginning course, both North High School and Torrance High School have many more students than average. In advanced courses, numbers are lower than average, except for Torrance High School boys.

6. Music and art—Fewer students at both schools take music and art courses than the Conant average. North High girls are an exception to the district-wide trend, however.

7. Total number of academic subjects—Both schools rank far above the Conant average in the number of students who take from 15 to 19 academic subjects during their high school careers. The only exception is the North High girls, who fall somewhat below this average.

Garages TV Rooms
 Nothing Down, 5 Years to Pay \$575
 LOOKS GOOD LIKE A TV ROOM SHOULD!
 \$987.00 ON YOUR SLAB 12' x 16'
 MR. KOHL
 Builders' Supply Center
 5550 W. Manchester Los Angeles, 13 OR 8-3855

Tom Cavanaugh on Redlands Honor Roll
 Thomas Lee Cavanaugh, who resides with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Beck, of 3707 Emerald Ave., has been placed on the honor roll of the fall semester at the University of Redlands for achieving a 3.47 grade average. Cavanaugh is a senior at the university and is majoring in history.

He is a graduate of Torrance High School.

El Camino to Present Free Concert Friday
 Appearing in a program of chamber music tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. in the Campus Theatre, El Camino College, will be the Cosmopolitan Chamber Ensemble. The concert, sponsored by the El Camino music department and the American Federation of Musicians, will be open to the general public without charge.

The ensemble will play the "Trio Opus 40" for violin, French horn and piano by Brahms, "Trio Opus 49" for violin, piano and cello by Mendelssohn and "Quartet Opus 25" for piano and strings by Brahms.

READING ABILITY
 Almost 10 million adults in the United States read with an ability equivalent to that of a normal child in the fourth grade in school.

SAV-MOR TV CO.
 We are making service calls as usual while our new quarters are under construction. We will have our grand opening in March at the same address that we have had for the past 4 years.
 2318 TORRANCE BLVD. CALL FA 8-6110



AT TRAINLOAD SALE TRY-IT FURN. CO.

BRAND NEW 1959 GENERAL ELECTRIC APPLIANCES
Tracside Special! UPRIGHT FOOD FREEZER
Freight Car Buy! Family Size All New 1959 G-E Refrigerator

BUY NOW & SAVE

- Saves space—takes less than half the floor space of a comparable chest freezer
- Magnetic safety door
- 5 year warranty on sealed in refrigerator system
- 9 position temperature selector
- 3 year food spoilage written warranty

\$199⁹⁵ TERMS



Bargain Train Special
2 WASH SPEEDS 2 SPIN SPEEDS
Filter-Flo® G-E Washer
\$199⁹⁵
 DIAL-DEFROST WITH MAGNETIC SAFETY DOOR



ONLY \$228⁸⁸

BUY ON TERMS

- Normal Cycle for regular fabrics
- Second Cycle for delicate fabrics
- Water Saver saves up to 20 gals. on small loads
- Holds 12 lbs. of heavy fabrics

Filter Flo® system filters lint, sand and soap scum



WE GIVE YOU GREEN STAMPS

ROCKET Cleaners - Laundry Washeteria
4 Hour Service
No Extra Charge
 Including Saturday

Save More With the Plant That Gives More

Men's & Ladies' **SUITS \$1²⁹** 9x12 **Shag Rugs 2⁹⁹**
 PLAIN **DRESSES** Up to 25 Lb. Ea. Additional Lb. 25c
 Reg. \$1.35 ea.

Men's Dress **SHIRTS** **WASH FLUFF FOLD 9⁹ SHEETS**
 Regularly 27c Each **FREE** C Ironed Out of Bundle

ROCKET DRIVE-IN Plenty Free Parking
 Complete Plant—All Work Done on Premises
GARDENA VALLEY SHOPPING CENTER
 CORNER NORMANDIE AVE. AND REDONDO BEACH BLVD.
 OPEN 7 A.M. TO 9 P.M. — SUNDAY 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

WE GIVE YOU GREEN STAMPS

NOTHING DOWN
 1st Payment Not Due 'Till May

TRY-IT Furniture Co.
 23027 SO. AVALON BLVD. IN AVALON CENTER SHOPPING CENTER TE 4-7272