

Variety is key

# Schools prepare students for future

By CORINNE ABATT

From the day they first register until graduation, today's high school students attend a different kind of school than their parents did. In a very few years these young people will be a part of the job market, get married, buy homes and start families. Not always in that order. However young and inexperienced they may appear to their elders, with rare exception, at least in the Farmington school district, they are better prepared for those responsibilities than their parents.

Certainly the basic subjects are still there. But, gone are the four tracks—general, business, college preparatory and industrial. Gone, too, are the rigid 8:30-3:30 schedules.

No way has the variety of courses we offer today detracted from the basics. We still offer the full range—a full four year cycle of language, math, science and additional courses for the very talented. Said Lew Schulman, assistant superintendent for secondary education:

THE BASICS HAVE BEEN expanded to meet a changing world and the growing storehouse of information. A student may take the traditional history and social science courses for instance or he may choose to specialize in a particular period—Revolutionary War in special bicentennial course in the district, Civil War history, World War II, contemporary thought or the new inter-disciplinary American history and American literature.

At North Farmington High, students may even work in a 10-week mini-course in Michigan history. Mini-courses are also offered in physical education and English and the district plans to add more to the list by next year.

Since high school students are already an important part of the consumer market, one of the popular classes is consumer education.

This new program is partially financed with a \$15,000 federal grant administered by the state. There are, if any, texts available for classroom use, on Farmington teachers are

preparing their own course material. Class discussion centers on credit mortgages, home buying, savings plans, insurance and shopping for everything from groceries to furniture.

Each semester three business law students have a chance to see consumerism from a different angle when they work at the Consumer Protection Division in the Oakland County Prosecutor's office.

This is one of many on the job training opportunities in the high school program.

COOP STUDENTS in three occupational preparatory areas: Electronics, printing and auto mechanics along with those in nursing arts, retailing and office procedures, work part-time in related fields.

"Close to 50 percent of our students are in occupational preparatory programs," said Earl Baumark, vocational director.

"These programs lead to employment or what we call saleable skills. We encourage all of our students to continue their education after high school. There are over 1,000 juniors and seniors in our present program."

Schulman credits the passage of multiple in the district with one big advancement in the vocational courses.

"The equipment in our shops is up to date. In fact, some of it is very sophisticated."

He points out another innovation which was regarded with some misgivings before it was tried—college type registration in which students select the classes they want, the instructors and time.

"This has worked so beautifully. You can't know how enthusiastic the students and teachers are about it."

Surprisingly, it created many less problems than registration by computer. When the computer made a mistake and put a student into a

course or class that wasn't right for one reason or another, it sometimes took a week to straighten out. With the college-type registration, the problem is apparent at the time and can be remedied on the spot.

The South Oakland Vocational School (SOVC) has given even more variety in programming. Every school day nine buses carrying a total of 300 district students make the run to SOVC. Courses for medical and dental assistants, data processing and horticulture are given there.

As he looks ahead, Baumark hopes to meet student demands for courses in cosmetology, building trades and food service management. Although he hasn't had any demands for it, he suspects there is a need for law enforcement training. Schulman projects a computer programming course could be forthcoming.

BUT, JUST AS much as curriculum, attitudes have changed from the old lockstep days. Once a month student representatives from each of the three high schools get together with members of the board of education and several administrators. These roundtable meetings give the board representatives a chance to check the pulse of the student body.

Orientation to the world of work starts in the elementary grades. By the time youngsters reach junior high they have an idea of jobs, professions and the kind of skills needed. At some point in junior high they are given vocational tests which help clarify abilities and aptitudes for a variety of jobs. High school counselors and teachers both are involved in career guidance.

If, for any number of reasons, a student is not making it academically, there are many ways to go for help from courses to step up reading skills and tutors to a preparatory employment program.

# Harrison band set to entertain fans

Football fans attending the Nov. 9 game at Pontiac Stadium between the Detroit Lions and Cleveland Browns will be treated to a pre-game and post-game show put on by the 129 member Marching Band from Harrison High School. The program will depict entertainment from the 1920s through the present.

The Harrison Marching Band has established itself this year as one of the better ones in the state. In a recent statewide Marching Band Competition Day held at Pontiac Stadium, Harrison finished sixth among Class A schools.

Band Director Paul Barber is proud of the progress made by his band. These young people have worked very hard to achieve the sounds and precision necessary for a good marching band. "At the same time I have warned them of harder work ahead as they are losing the nucleus of their 'up front' field directing corps

through graduation. This includes drum major, Steve Markovich and twirlers Laura Wood, Kathy Loughlin and Wynne Robinson.

The marching band will perform publicly for the last time this year in a special Band-O-Tama program to be held at the Harrison High School Auditorium, 2995 Twelve Mile Road on Friday Nov. 14 at 8:00 p.m.

The Tagging Together tickets obtained for donations in a community wide effort on Oct. 24 and 25 may be used as admission for the event, or tickets may be obtained at the door. Individual ticket prices are \$1.25 for adults, 75 cents for students, or \$1 for an entire family. The program will feature marching band highlights from their 1975 season, and also will introduce the fall season for the Harrison Symphony and Concert Bands. Barber has promised, "If you enjoy music, there will be something for everyone at our Band-O-Tama."

# Billy Campbell to sell national

Billy D. Campbell of Farmington Hills, manager of the Great Lakes OEM Sales District for General Electric's Industrial Sales Division, has been assigned national sales responsibility for the material handling division.

In addition to managing GE sales, applying engineering and support services to original equipment manufacturers in Michigan, northern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, Campbell has national planning responsibility for the sale of GE industrial equipment to all OEMs in the material handling industry.

A native of South Bend, Ind., Campbell graduated from Purdue University in 1951 with a BS in engineering. He joined General Electric that same year and was assigned to the company's technical marketing test program.

Since completing this training program, Campbell has served as a specialist with responsibility for machine tool, air conditioning and material handling markets, and as a field sales engineer for the machine tool and material handling markets in the Cincinnati area.

In 1967, Campbell joined the apparatus service division in Schenectady, N.Y., as manager-market and sales development—transportation industries, where he was responsible for the development of maintenance, repair and rebuild service for transportation equipment through the company's network of service shops.

From 1970 to 1974, Campbell served as manager-industrial product sales for GE's industrial sales division,



BILLY CAMPBELL, and, in 1974, he was named manager-industrial sales district, Michigan area.

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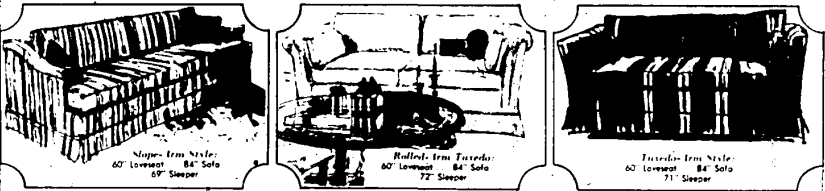
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