

Thursday, May 18, 1977

Seminar focus is gifted

Identification of gifted students and ways to effectively teach them are the topics of a seminar for 200 teachers at Oakland schools today.

This is the second seminar on gifted children sponsored this spring by a consortium of five south Oakland County school districts.

The districts of Southfield, Birmingham, Oak Park, Berkeley and Royal Oak are jointly seeking a grant from

the Michigan Department of Education to hire a coordinator for gifted programs. The seminar this week and one in April are part of the inservice training for teachers now involved or who may be involved next year in operating gifted programs.

Dr. Jane Hammill, coordinator of gifted program for the schools in Prince George's County, Md., is the featured speaker for the program. Other speakers are Marcia Wiss, con-

sultant for gifted and talented program in Livonia; Barbara Davis, coordinator for talented at Eaton Intermediate School District; and Gloria Downing, curriculum consultant for Livingston Intermediate School District.

While the five-district consortium will have 150 of their own educators in attendance, two representatives from each of the other 23 school districts in the county were also invited.

Screening offered for preschoolers

Several free preschool programs are open to Southfield school district children who qualify. Screenings to determine eligibility will be offered June 6-16 at Southfield's Child Development Center.

The center, formerly Lathrup Elementary School, is located at 27700 Southfield Road, in Lathrup Village. There is no charge for the screenings for Southfield school district residents.

School officials say the screening will help parents assess their child's development and help parents decide which of the district's pre-primary program might be best for their child. In the screening, the child's motor skills, social functioning, and information skills will be tested and evaluated.

Children who will be four years old are eligible for the screening. Candidates for special education programs 2½ through 6, and children age 3 eligible for Head Start may also take part.

The entire screening process takes one to two hours for the four preschool programs. The programs are:

•Head Start, a federally funded program, with eligibility determined by income. ADC recipients automatically qualify. Other children 3-5 whose families fall below federal guidelines may also qualify.

•Title I, a federally funded program for children age 4 living in Adler, Brace, John Grace, Magnolia, Simms, Southfield Number 10 and Vandenberg Elementary school areas whose screening indicates a need for preschool experience.

•Special education program, state and locally funded, with eligibility determined by screening results and evaluation.

•IPREP, a locally funded Preschool Readiness Education Project for children age 4 whose screening suggests they would profit from the program.

Parents who want to enroll their child in one of the programs or who want to take advantage of the screening process, must first complete a registration form available at the center.

For further information about the screening and to obtain a registration form, call the center at 354-8465.

Chamber sponsors student business day

The "world of business" is the topic of a special day-long discussion May 20 between business and civic leaders and 100 Southfield high school students, teachers and counselors.

The event, called Business/Youth Dialogue, is sponsored by the Southfield Chamber of Commerce and will be hosted by Lawrence Institute of Technology's business and industrial management school.

Four areas will be explored during the dialogue, according to Philip Mesagher, executive director of the Southfield Chamber of Commerce. Students will participate in sessions on profit, government relations, community participation and involvement, and careers and jobs, Mesagher said. In addition, students will meet in small group discussions with business leaders.

Business participants in the dialogue will include: Gus Carlson of Federal Mogul; Tom Fox of WJBK-TV; Southfield Mayor Donald Prussini; Don Gillard of Michigan Bell; retiree Rubin Halperin; Southfield Treasurer

Roman Gronkowski; Larry Kunze of Mason Dental Ceramics; Frank Meany of K-Mart; Michael O'Brien of Gail and Rice Talent; Harry Owen of WJBK-TV; E. McFarland Richter of Detroit Industrial Clinic; Joseph Salvia of JMS and Associates; Bill Turner of S.B. McLaughlin Associates; and Dr. Pino Winter, DDS.

Will Mines of Eaton Corp. will serve as program moderator.

"Certainly this exposure to many facets of the business arena should prove beneficial to students about to become active within it," Mesagher said. "Similar business-youth dialogues in other communities have proven extremely successful. Although this is Southfield's first, there's been a great deal of interest already by both the students and business participants."

Participants will register on the first floor in conference rooms C-D, located just off the foyer of LIT's Science Building at 8 a.m. The program will include lunch furnished by McDonald's restaurants.

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