

Resident defends present curriculum standards

Editor: Reading the articles in the Farmington Observer on curriculum goals and mandatory courses brings to mind the

personal battle I have had in my own mind guiding and directing my two girls through school. We, as parents, cannot create carbon

Parent questions school standards

Editor: Ten years ago we moved here from New Jersey. My husband was transferred to Southfield. Not knowing any of the areas, we spent a week looking for a house. The big consideration for us was where we would find the best schools for our three children — the area where they would get the best education.

reached ninth grade, the teacher cuts were in full swing. Mr. Henderson was moved. We lost a very fine sincere teacher, Mrs. Dudley.

NOW WE COME to Farmington High School. Every year since Bill started in tenth grade, he is a senior this year, the Board of Education has been pinkslipping our good teachers and leaving our children with a number of mediocre teachers. I'm not saying the board has taken all our good teachers, fortunately it can't do that all at one time, but I am sure going at the same rate the next five years we'll see Farmington High School with no teachers for the college bound student.

It seems to me as a body of people who supposedly look out for students education, the board behaves in a very irresponsible and uncaring manner towards them. How else do you account for the loss of Jerry Jacoby, music, Dr. Edgerton, science, Mrs. Hosman, French, and the underutilization of someone as qualified as Joan McKenzie?

The sad part is the obvious, serious decline of Farmington academic school standards. Parents of college bound students must now look elsewhere for a city to raise their children.

FRANCES J. SMITH, Farmington Hills

from our readers

copies of ourselves. Our children are each individuals with individual skills and individual interests. The only thing as parents and school officials we can successfully do is guide the children in the direction of these talents and interests.

Our goals, both for the standpoint of home and the standpoint of school should be to nurture these students to becoming successful citizens. We have to ask ourselves the question, will more mandatory classes in math, science and the humanities make all these students who wouldn't ordinarily be successful, successful? I don't think so.

Students whose parents have guided them to a certain goal, I am sure are

taking courses necessary to reach that goal. The requirements that are in effect now are adequate for the schools my girls are planning to attend.

However, the route they are taking is one through the business curriculum to allow themselves a skill to offer to the outside world the minute they are handed their high school diploma.

From there they will pursue other interests. As the classes stand now, without taking any study halls there still hasn't been time to take every course. If the science and math requirements were raised there would be even less time to take important classes related to business and other classes they are interested in.

Why put this burden on every student? The comment in the paper was that "any more can fulfill current graduation requirements."

"Students can take a study hall each year and whatever else they desire." Our responsibility isn't to push more

required subjects down their throats, but rather increase the intensity of counseling to those who are blindly going through high school.

Every child has been blessed with a talent and it is our responsibility to help them in the direction to use it. Computers cannot mold peoples lives. A warm caring body has so much more of a lasting effect.

High school is our last chance with the boys and girls to help them to be happy and successful citizens. Not everyone is going to college. Let's see what is needed for those that aren't so they can be a success, too.

Students also have different levels of interest. Some want to major in what others want to minor in. My girls love music as a recreation and play constantly at home, but one girl cannot enjoy her instrument in school because of the perfection that is required at that level.

Yes, there are areas where she can

perform but there they are regarded as inferior musicians.

How can we teach children to enjoy music with these attitudes? Do we need perfection at the high school level or can we lower our ego or standard (whichever the case) to give the minor a chance to enjoy and appreciate music with dignity for their leisure time in years to come?

Maybe this is why our bands are dwindling in size. There are some who like to play music for the fun of it.

An intellectual person is one who wants to learn and seeks out information on his own. Let's not stifle the desire to learn by force feeding. We all have our pet subjects, but one person's pet may not be the same as another person's pet.

If you are going to require the fashion designer to take science, then let's require the doctor to take clothing.

RUTH QUEVY, Farmington Hills

All three of our children were top students throughout elementary school. Mrs. Buckler at Larkshire had all our children in sixth grade and prepared them exceptionally well for junior high. The children attended East Junior High. Bill, the oldest, and Carlene were lucky, as Gil Henderson was principal. Mr. Henderson was a very conscientious, hard working man, who knew his teachers and students and had a personal interest in all of them. He kept in touch personally with a group of parents from each area, kept us informed about what was going on in the school in all areas.

By the time Paula, our youngest,

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