

How OCC Can Improve Your Learning Skills

By KATHY MORAN

You wouldn't try to build a house without the necessary tools, yet many people try to build an education without the necessary skills.

This analogy is drawn by instructor James Orr of the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College who has proven to both young and old students that learning can be hampered without the necessary tools.

And because one of the goals of the Farmington Campus is to reach as many people in surrounding communities as possible, the college is offering a "summer enrichment program" to teach people how to use their learning skills.

The program was first offered last summer and drew so much attention that it continued during the fall and winter semesters.

HIGH SCHOOL juniors and seniors as well as adults can register for the six - week program, which meets three mornings a week. A tentative schedule is set for 9 a.m. until 12 noon July 3 to August 11 at a cost of \$30.

By its very nature, the program is flexible, and different time schedules can be arranged.

Most crucial among the tools that the program concentrates on is eye movement in reading. Also closely related are vocabulary, spelling and listening skills.

All these are improved by individual teaching, counseling and practice in the Individualized Programmed Learning Laboratory (IPLL).

But anyone can use the resources in the IPLL to learn more about any subject area whether it be basic mathematics or advanced calculus.

"UNFORTUNATELY in our schools today, we don't prepare students with the proper skills, Orr says.

Though the ability to read is so important, teachers don't train students efficient eye movement.

So in the IPLL, a student's eye movement can be recorded on film and mapped to show the student how efficiently or inefficiently he uses his eyes. Then using films and a special projector, the student can be guided into using his eye movement to maximum efficiency.

"Those are skills that can be taught," Orr said.

Along with improving reading skills, the professionals in the IPLL work individually with students to help them improve spelling and vocabulary - all necessary ingredients for a good reader.

GUIDANCE IN OTHER subject areas depends entirely on where the student is in his knowledge.

A student who is at a low level in math begins at that level and, through guidance and programs that the student works on alone, advances at his own speed.

The student who is at a high level of competency in science can use the programs to advance at a faster rate.

The summer program is a replica of programs that go on throughout the year on the campus. The resources in the center are available free to all students and for a \$30 charge (same as the charge for a three credit course) to anyone else who wants to improve their skills.



MIKE COLLINGS, a sophomore at North Farmington High School, uses a special reading projector to improve his reading skills. The projector proceeds at whatever rate Collings sets flashing words against the back of the study carrel. This teaches Collings, of 33768 Hunter Point, Farmington, to use his eyes efficiently. Collings participated in the summer enrichment program at Orchard Ridge last summer and continued through the fall and winter. (Observer photo)

One of the most enthusiastic supporters of the program is Mrs. Audrey Jackee who works in the IPLL.

"I could sell this program backwards and forwards," she said. "It's not because I work here. But being a mother of a high school student, I think it's wonderful.

"I know these kids (high school students) have problems, and one of the really big problems they have is that they can't read efficiently.

"WE'RE NOT SAYING that you are going to fail if you don't take this course. But if we're introducing an easier way, why not take it?"

"It's great for the students because it's not embarrassing for them. An instructor works with them individually," she said.

Orr said that their basic premise is that every student can achieve when he efficiently uses his skills.

"You don't try to build a house unless you have the necessary tools, so why try to learn without the basic skills?"

Bill Would Ratify Rights Plan

LANSING Legislation to ratify the proposed U.S. constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights for women was introduced in the State House by Rep. Marvin Stempfen (D-Livonia).

under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state because of sex. "In an age when many women find themselves cast in the roles of wage earners, homeowners and other situations formerly considered the sole province of males, it is utterly wrong that discrimination against women should continue to exist in public housing, employment accommodations, education and any other area," Stempfen said.

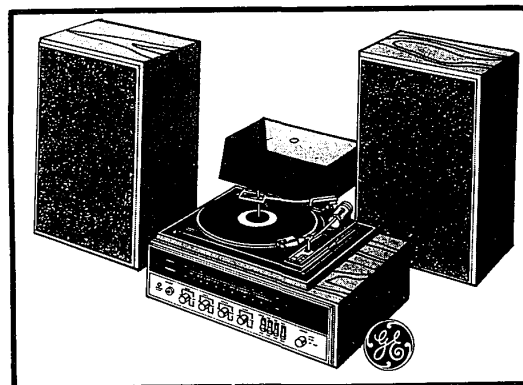
The proposed amendment was recently approved by the U.S. Congress but must be ratified by 38 states before it can be added to the Constitution.

The proposed amendment states that equality of rights

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