

# Principal tells his philosophy

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experience, too. Blackman said his philosophy has changed as he learned from his students.  
"I think that in the beginning, teachers have a tendency to teach to the subject. The needs of students differ greatly. When a teacher begins to real-

ize this, then he will structure his method more toward individual teaching."  
It helps when a teacher becomes more relaxed and familiar with his subject area.  
"When you become comfortable with the subject matter—that takes

about one or two years—then you start drawing in other subject matter. You begin to take advantage of other resources," he said.

FEELINGS of frustration are common for beginning teachers, and learning to cope with them takes time.

"You want so much for a child to do well. You must realize that you're one of several who have an effect on the child. That was one of the hardest things for me to realize; you have to satisfy yourself, too." Eventually, you become aware that you are doing the best you can with the materials and time allotted to you, he said.

Perhaps the best thing a teacher can do for a child is to let him taste success, he said.

"Usually success begets success. Then we can see a mushrooming effect. And the most successful situation is when you have parents and teachers in the school working for the child. The community at Woodcreek has been just terrific."

More than 80 parents were involved in some capacity in school activities last year, he said.

Blackman said he likes to interact personally with his students and staff.

"My door very seldom is closed. I have to get out and into classrooms. My goal is to take a period of time everyday, to get into the classrooms and call the children by their names."

"I like to be recognized. I know our students like to be recognized."

AS AN ADMINISTRATOR and an educator, Blackman thinks communications important.

"I don't think people like to be talked at, they like to be talked with. Communication doesn't mean just passing on information. You have to deal with other people's priorities quickly and efficiently."

In some cases, that means when members of his school community leave him a message, he calls back.

"Their priorities might not be your priorities, but you get back to people. I don't think I've ever knowingly not called people back. You have to relate to people sincerely and honestly."

Often callers will be apologetic for their "interruption." They shouldn't be, he said.

"A lot of times, people will start out their calls with 'I'm sorry to bother you.' That's what I'm there for, that's my responsibility. I guess whether it bothers me or not really shouldn't be their concern, that's my problem."

When people have questions, he encourages them to call.

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