

New Wood Creek SchoolAdaptable to To Latest Concepts



SURROUNDED BY SCHOOL—Lawrence Freedman visits the site of Wood Creek Elementary School where he will be principal. He is actively involved in architectural planning, equipment purchases and selection of its staff.

(Evert photo)

FARMINGTON
No ordinary combination of masonry and steel, Farmington's new Wood Creek Elementary School at 28350 Danvers St. is adaptable to the latest educational concepts.

Two major wings, one for upper and one for lower grades, fan out from a central core. Upper grade rooms cluster together for use by a three-teacher team, an educational concept which will be an integral part of the curriculum. Folding panels will permit separation at any time, and each tri-part cluster of rooms is on the perimeter of a shared activities center.

MINIMAL WINDOW space will not only allow flexibility in furniture arrangement and reduce maintenance costs, but the resulting artificial lighting can be controlled for optimum vision. Each room has an access door-window to outside, a bonus safety feature.

Another first in the Farmington district for Wood Creek is incorporation of a reading lab within the structure. A reading specialist will be supplied with supplemental diagnostic, remedial and enrichment materials and will guide teachers in their use to meet special needs.

Still another first is the minuscule kitchen space needed to accommodate the recently initiated airtight lunch program. Space thus gained is utilized as a stage which serves multi-purpose areas.

Two special education rooms for the deaf will be contained in each wing and equipped by county funds.

"Jahr-Anderson Associates have created an architectural addition which does credit to an already beautiful suburban school."

Barry Muscato, counselor at North Farmington High; Josephine Oliver, fifth grade teacher at Middlebelt; Mrs. Lucille Peterson, English teacher at Farmington Junior High; Mrs. Jean Rahn, Fairview principal; Mrs. Laura Smith, principal at Cloverdale; Mrs. Nancy Simanek, primary teacher at Fairview; Mrs. Joyce Van Sickle, Highmeadow fourth grade teacher; Clayton Weeks, Farmington Junior High counselor; and Stan Weinberg, elementary instrumental teacher.

The advisory staff consisted of Miss Minnie Zieleske, director of elementary education; Joseph Nicita, director of secondary education; Norman Kinney, former chairman of the professional study committee; Douglas Smith, special education supervisor; Jack Cotton, director of physical education; and the elementary art and music consultants.

Local Masons Receive Honors

PLYMOUTH
Five Blue Lodge Masons from Plymouth were in Detroit recently to receive the 32nd Degree in Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

B. Frank L. Lack, 15197 Thornbridge; Everett R. Koers, 48814 Gyde Road; Buddy E. Bartell, 14740 Shadywood Court; John H. Walters, 42008 Cherry Hill, and Homer Pope, 15550 Fry, received the degree.

They were among a class of 565 Masons from 11 southeastern Michigan counties to receive the honor.

one member particularly strong in each of the three areas: language arts, math and science, and social studies.

"Younger children in the primary grades need the security of the self-contained classroom with one teacher," he continues, "but as they mature, children can accept and benefit from a teaching combination."

He described the color scheme for the media center as cool-gold carpeting with accents of black, chrome and walnut.

Primary classrooms will have carpets of Persian motif, walls of pale cream, desks of chrome and dark walnut with yellow chairs. Upper grades will study within a framework of avocado green carpeting, desks to match and yellow chairs.

"Carpeting a school reduces distraction from noise and cuts down on extra seating equipment," the former Highmeadow School principal said.

EXPANDING ON the team-teaching theme, Freedman explained, "The entire team has a responsibility to every student. Conversely each student has full advantage of the talents of each teacher."

"Our staff will be specially selected with this concept of flexibility in mind. We'll concentrate on teams composed of

"All the materials in it will be child-operated," he asserted. "I'd much rather see them worn out from use than gathering dust on shelves."

"I have worked closely with staff in many buildings and their suggestions have been invaluable," Freedman concluded. "You might say that Wood Creek building was planned by a committee whose chairman was Don Cowan, Wooddale principal. It combines the best in functional ideas because those who know best have planned best."

FREEDMAN CONSIDERS the approach taken by the school board toward Farmington's new buildings to be progressive and far-sighted.

"Appointing principals in advance as they have—allowing them to work directly with the architects, select equipment, and help with staffing—is the best possible way to avoid costly mistakes at the same time providing the most and best for taxpayer dollars," he remarked.

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New Report Cards

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system, but will receive four yearly markings rather than six.

AN EXPANDED interim progress report will be sent to their parents between marking periods. It will reach parents of students who are in danger of failing, show a noticeable drop in quality of work or show a decided improvement.

Formerly the notice went only to failing students.

In summarizing the feeling of his committee, Kasun remarked, "While we know that what we have developed is not the answer, our new approach to evaluating student progress is a better way. We will learn a lot this year and what we learn will help determine future procedures."

Among those working on the report card committee with Kasun were: Nicholas Abd, principal at William Grove; Robert Anderson, administrative assistant at Power Junior High; Mrs. Mary Hanle, reading specialist; Mrs. Daisy Barby, Title I director at Shigawasee; Mel Blackman, Bond School principal; Miss Linda Brocklehurst, fifth grade teacher at William Grove; Mrs. Paula Brown, fifth grade teacher at Middle Belt; Robert Brown, Power Junior High principal; and Lawrence Freedman, principal of Wood Creek School.

Others were: Mrs. Carole Howell, Middlebelt kindergarten teacher; Mrs. Carolyn

FHS To Present Concert

FARMINGTON
The Farmington High School's music department will sponsor a concert at 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 16, in the new auditorium to raise funds for student scholarships to summer camp.

Featured on the program will be the orchestra, band, wind ensemble and marching band.

In additional news from the music department, George N. Heller, director of instrumental music at FHS, said that the famed Smith-Walbridge camp in Syracuse, Ind., has made its facilities available to the marching band for one week prior to the school opening in the fall of 1970.

Artists Club Meets Tonight

FARMINGTON
The Farmington Artists Club will meet at 8 p.m. tonight (Wednesday) in the First Farmington Savings and Loan Building.

Guest speaker will be Renee Radell, who is affiliated with the Velma Gallery, Chicago. Mrs. Radell's work can be seen locally at the University of Michigan Dearborn campus through Dec. 9. She will also exhibit in the New York City show of the Schuster Galleries in October 1970.

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