



40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of
UNIVERSITY CITY HIGH SCHOOL
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School Will Replace 3 R's With 'Organic Curriculum'

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When it opens in September, 1970, University City High School won't have the traditional classes in English, math, science and social studies.

Instead it will offer a series of "learning packets," organized around topics like "water."

To be constructed between 36th and 38th, Filbert and Warren sts., the school will be one of 18 across the country which will try out a new "organic curriculum," as it is called. The project is funded by the Federal Government.

All Tied Together

The "learning packets," explained the school's coordinator, George Love, will consist of reading materials, tests, movies and programmed instruction,

They will be inter-disciplinary to demonstrate that "English and math are not separate bits, but are all tied together."

"Take water as a possible theme," Love said in an interview.

"You could study its chemical makeup; deal with it as a unit of measurement and a prerequisite for life, and study the plants and animals that live in it.

"You could examine how cities are clustered around water, study water pollution and water conservation and write essays on these topics.

"You could study how water is dealt with as a theme in music – "The Blue Danube Waltz" – or in literature – "The Old Man and the Sea."

"And you could bring in physical education by making one of the objectives of the packet a requirement to swim so many laps."

At this point, Love said, the water packet is only hypothetical because packet topics have not yet been decided. "But it would be a good one," he said.

The packets will be developed by a group of teachers released from their teaching duties for the project, he said.

Packets will be designed, he said, so that pupils can work independently and move at their own rate of speed. This way, he said, a student could finish in two or three years or take as long as five or six.

Each packet, Love said, will spell out certain objectives. When a student feels he has mastered an area, he will take a test on that material and grade it himself.

If he is satisfied with the results, he will take a test to be graded by the teacher.

Teachers will be available for help and advice, Love said. So will a variety of other "resource persons," including faculty and graduate students from the area college—the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel Institute of Technology and the College of Pharmacy and Science.

Help from Scientists

Scientists from the colleges, the University City Science Center and private industry will also work with the students, both at the high school and in their own laboratories.

With this strength in science, Love said, the school will become a "magnet" math and science high school for the city. It will draw 75 percent of its pupils from the immediate area. The rest will be chosen from around the city on the basis of scientific interest and ability.

Every pupil in the school, Love said, will be required to go through every department, mastering at least the minimum objectives.

Boys, he said, will learn basic home economics. Girls will work in the shop and all will learn commercial and clerical skills such as typing and filling out income tax returns.

Salable Skill

The goal for each pupil—whether or not he plans to go to college—will be to graduate with a salable vocational skill, Love said.

The school of the school, he said, will be to create an "atmosphere of learning."

A further motivation, Love said, is that the school will be open 12 months a year, with teachers working on an 11-month schedule.

In the summer, a supplementary school will be established at the Morris Arboretum for on-the-spot lessons in ecology, biology and astronomy. There will also be classes in everything from language to outdoor cooking.

School Will Replace

By KATRINA DYKE
Of The Bulletin Staff

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PHILADELPHIA
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 1966

Reduce the Size of School Site

19 1966
Following from a month in Europe, approved as proved it.

He got verbal assurances from all members of the nine-man school board that they too would go along with the plan. HUD officials have suggested to some concerned parties that a rare "approval with an exception" might be given to approve all projects except the school if the compromise plan does not work out.

Agreement
backed residents stand by a 1963 city ruling giving them power over 7.6 acres them-

and squabbles over the site have delayed all project renewal area for over a year, including the sci-