

HOMEMAKING EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Homemaking education in Virginia Public Schools is concerned with helping individuals and families in solving problems encountered in daily living. We have two goals in mind, the improvement of family life and the best possible development of each individual member.

There are certain basic principles of good living which we try to recognize in working with individuals and families. We use these principles in governing our individual and group work at school and try to have these carried over into the home. By consistent application of these principles we hope to develop the individual so as to help her and to develop family life.

Social and economic conditions have changed rapidly in the past ten years, and with each change new problems affecting home life have arisen. Scientific research has greatly affected standards of living making it possible to have new materials and a better understanding of those factors important to human welfare. This is one of the Home Economics teacher's duties, to keep up with the changes that are most outstanding to aid in developing the students under her supervision. The teacher, to get the best results, should make frequent visits to the homes of her students so as to get a better understanding of the girl's background, ~~so as to understand her better and to be able to work more individually with the student.~~ Naturally, one can work with another better if he knows his principles and means of procedure. When the girls are working together in the Home Economics department we do not have much time for observation as compared to the observations we can make in the home. Time does not permit that we go to each person and stand by her watching every move. Very often, the school carries equipment that some homes do not have and as a result the final product is not what we would ordinarily see under the true home situation.

Perhaps the majority of Home Economics students in this county are those that will do most or all of their own work in the home in years to come. We must recognize this fact and teach them the principles of each phase of work we give, encourage them to use these principles so that they may develop and also improve the family life about us.

The educational experiences offered are directed toward developing:

1. An appreciation of home and family life as it relates to the best all-around development of each individual member of the family.
2. An understanding of changing social and economic conditions and how they affect family life.

3. An understanding of the significance of homemaking activities to the fulfillment of the important functions of family life and the development of the necessary abilities to carry on these activities.

4. An understanding of the possible contributions of science and art to homemaking and the development of the ability to apply the principles involved to the solution of problems of home life.

5. An understanding of the relation of a satisfying home life to the normal development of every individual and the development of those attitudes and abilities necessary to deal adequately with intimate personal and social problems arising out of home life.

The facilities of the home economics department are usually made available to the entire school.

The vocational course in homemaking for high schools, is developed around broad problems of home and family life which are arrived at through a general knowledge of the growth and behavior of individuals and groups of individuals in relation to situations confronting them in everyday living.