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Those who are responsible for the education of our youth in Loudoun County hold steadfastly to the philosophy that some improvement can always be made in our program without waiting for some large building improvement program.

Some of the measures that have been taken to improve our schools in recent years are given here.

We have had in-service training programs for teachers since 1949. An extension course in education has been conducted in the county each year by George Washington University. Our supervisory staff has additionally conducted a series of meetings for all teachers which we refer to as workshops.

Our salary schedules for teachers now provide salaries as follows:

For the Collegiate Professional Certificate--

First Year - \$2520

Thirteenth Year - \$3240

For^{thc} Local Permit salaries range from \$1800 to \$2160

and for the Emergency License from \$1920 to \$2280. Increments are based on years of experience and college credits. This schedule has encouraged holders of these temporary licenses to attend college during

the summer or through the winter extension course to secure more college credits and to become better prepared for their work.

For the second year we are conducting a speech clinic under the guidance of our visiting teacher and elementary supervisor. The Crippled Children's Society has borne part of the expense of a specialist and the Board of Supervisors has provided part, and there have been some private donations. It has been found that about 85% of the pupils originally referred to the specialist can be later cared for satisfactorily through a re-directed instructional program by the teacher with the help of the supervisor.

For many years we undertook to provide health instruction in grades 1 to 3 and 9 to 12 without textbooks. Last year we began to use textbooks in all grades and have found our health program to be strikingly more effective. Interest of parents in health habits of their own children has been accelerated.

Last year we began in a small way the work of a psychologist. This work is under the general direction of the health department, but most of the original school contacts are made by the visiting teacher. Local organizations are making contributions for the work and the county has made a small appropriation.

Our staff has been enlarged recently by the addition of a director of instruction and also, a supervisor of transportation and buildings.

Our first use of public tax funds for music instruction began last year when three music teachers were employed to work in the high schools. Each of the four white high schools has a band and also general music is ~~for credit~~.
taught; Both of these are credit courses.

Plans are now being prepared by our architects for the

new Loudoun County High School located near Leesburg on a thirty acre site. This building is designed to house 1,000 pupils and will replace the present four high schools. It contains, as now planned, practically all of the special features that are found in our present day comprehensive high school plants.

The space now occupied by the four white high schools will be occupied by the much crowded elementary grades at the same or nearby locations. This crowded condition has resulted from consolidation of one and two teacher schools. ⁽¹⁾ ~~An addition of several~~
An addition of several rooms is being planned for the negro high school.

No significant change in the elementary enrollment in our schools has taken place during the past twenty years. The membership in white elementary grades in September 1932 was 2499, while in 1952 it was 2478.

The high school enrollment has increased markedly in both white and negro schools since 1932.

This increase is due to several factors. One more grade is now included in the high school, transportation has been greatly expanded to reach the area of former one-room schools, and the compulsory attendance law now applies to pupils in high school up to 16 years of age.

Further, the broadening of the curriculum made possible by consolidating 11 white schools into 4, and other factors have increased the holding power of the schools.

We feel that there exists in the schools of this county a high morale and that supervisors, principals, teachers and pupils are working together in a common cause to preserve and improve the American Way of Life. Democracy and our cherished freedoms hold high places in our thinking about the needs of our youth.

We earnestly suseribe to the philosophy so magnificently ^{expressed} by Thomas Jefferson a century and a half ago:

"Educate the people generally and tyranny and oppression of both mind and body will vanish like evil spirits at the dawn of day."

The End

By O. L. Emerick.