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A Proposed Plan Of Guidance For Dayton High School, Dayton, Texas

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A PROPOSED PLAN OF GUIDANCE FOR
DAYTON HIGH SCHOOL
DAYTON, TEXAS

By

John Armour Board

A Thesis in Mechanic Arts Submitted in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of

Bachelor of Science

in

Division of Mechanic Arts

of the

Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College
Prairie View, Texas
May, 1938

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DEDICATION

To my mother, brothers and sisters who
made it possible that I might secure
a college education.

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A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

I wish to extend my appreciation to Professor J. J. Abernethy, Director of the Mechanic Arts Division of Prairie View State College for the guidance and instruction necessary for writing this thesis. I am also indebted to Professor B. W. Turner, Principal of Dayton High School, for the valuable data concerning the curriculum and enrollment of Dayton High School.

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INTRODUCTION

Our elementary and Secondary School system as a whole may be conceived as an institution established and maintained largely for guidance purposes. Entry into a vocation presupposes a definite choice and a decision based on previous sampling.

At present, the social and economic problems are so complex that few parents are competent enough to give needed advice to their boys and girls. Obviously the best insurance that can be provided against blundering on the part of the individual preparing to take up his burden of work is wise counsel and guidance during the formative period of his life. The vocational guidance movement, so called, which has developed during the past fifteen years is fundamentally an attempt to co-ordinate every possible constructive influence of the school into a combined educational and vocational guidance program. It demands a personal and at the same time a scientific consideration of each child's individual needs and capacities and an individual education program adopted to those needs and ca-

capacities. Guidance involves all the factors which constitute education.

While it has long since been agreed that children should be sufficiently well prepared in the secondary school, if possible, so that they may exercise intelligent judgment in weighing values and in choosing their future courses of study. The purpose of this plan is to provide continuous and systematic guidance with children during their entire school attendance above the sixth grade, as well as training and adjustment periods.

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HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM OFFERING

Dayton High School is located one and one-half miles, southwest of Dayton, Texas. There has not been an accurate record of the school, but there is a sufficient record to identify its history.

Dayton High School was established in 1895, under the principalship of Professor A. J. Davis, (white). At the time of its establishment, the sessions were of four months each. Since Mr. Davis' administration, there have been sixteen principals. At present the school is under the principalship of B. W. Turner (B. S.) Prairie View Collage. The school is rated as a "B" class school with only three years of high school work.

In the year of 1934, the school was housed in a beautiful eight room brick building. One year later another brick building of six rooms was built in the location where it now stands.

CURRICULUM OFFERING

The High School Curriculum is composed of the following subjects, mathematics, English, agriculture, home economics, and music.

The aims of the curriculum is to give the students a foundation concerning the fundamental subjects offered in order that they will be fairly well prepared to enter a Senior High School. Along with the students, preparedness in this high school, information concerning college work is also stressed.

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ENROLLMENT

Prior to 1934, the enrollment has increased greatly. At present there are 25 students enrolled in the high school department, out of this number, there are 15 females and 10 males making a total of 25. In the elementary department, there are 220 students, out of this number, there are 106 males and 114 females.

All teachers that are employed in the Dayton High School, are graduates of the leading colleges of the south. They are holding degrees of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts. There are 7 teachers employed in the school. There are 2 in the high school department, one male and one female. There are five employed in the elementary school department, all being females.

In connection with the school there is 1 doctor, 1 nurse, and 1 janitor. The Deans are teachers employed in the Dayton high school. The principal is the Dean of boys, and the home economic teacher is the Dean of girls.

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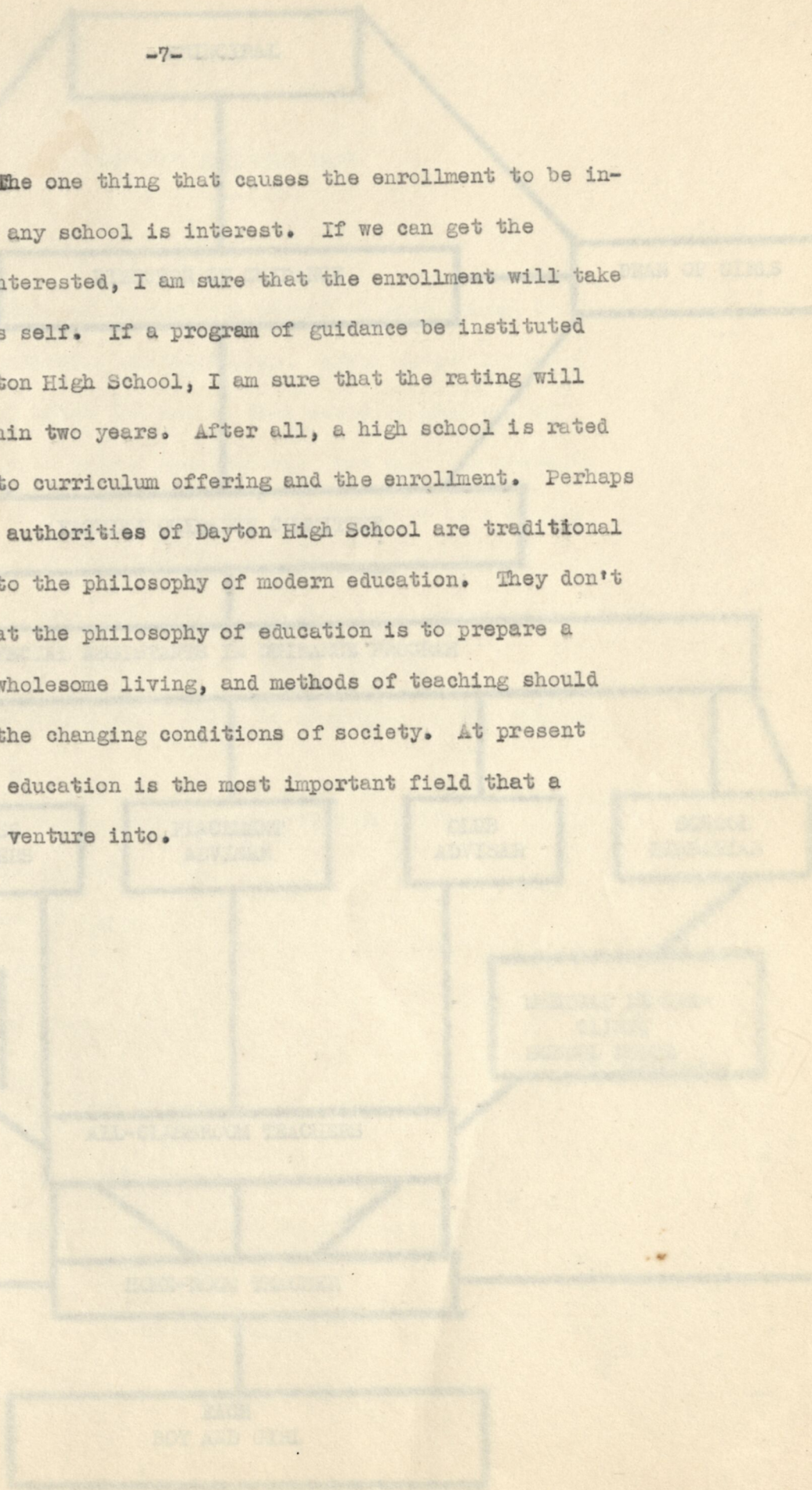
PRESENT GUIDANCE PLAN

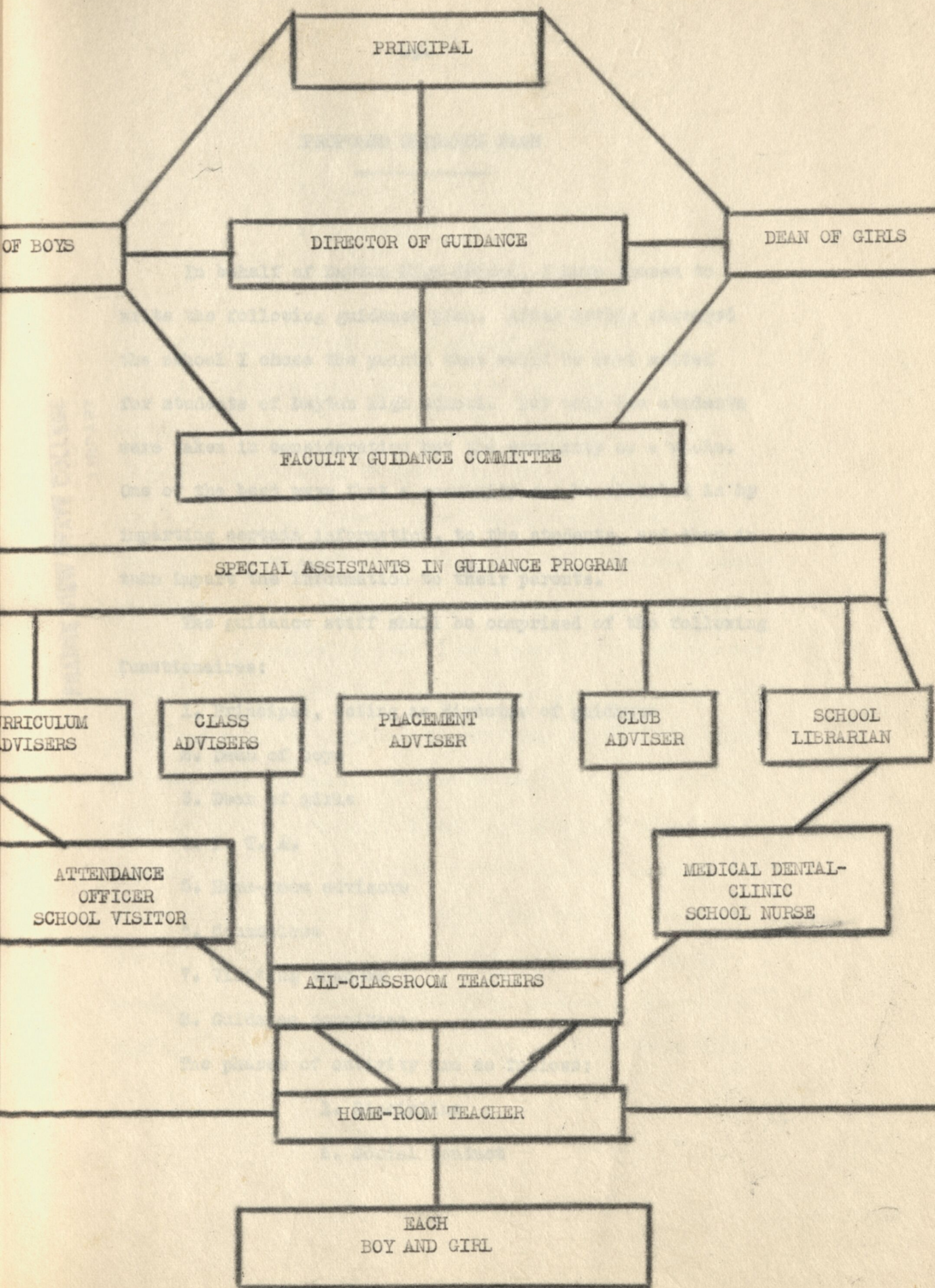
At present, there is very little guidance in Dayton High School. In the first place, the program of guidance is unorganized. There is only one organization that may have connection with guidance and that the P. T. A. The members are very active, and cooperative. This organization meets at least once per week. In these various meetings, a few problems of the child are discussed. Every teacher takes part in the organization.

Seemingly, the attitude of guidance in this school is very unfavorable. There are no forms of activity offered to stimulate the interest of vocational opportunities. However, there are few bulletins containing information on vocational activities. From observation, I noticed that quite a few students are very interested in drafting. If the teachers had any knowledge of guidance, they would guide those individuals in developing their creative ability.

The present plan as a whole, is not suitable for any high school. It is very crude in organization. That is one reason why the enrollment is small due to the lack of guidance. There isn't enough extra-curricula activities

offered. The one thing that causes the enrollment to be increased in any school is interest. If we can get the students interested, I am sure that the enrollment will take care of its self. If a program of guidance be instituted in the Dayton High School, I am sure that the rating will change within two years. After all, a high school is rated according to curriculum offering and the enrollment. Perhaps the school authorities of Dayton High School are traditional according to the philosophy of modern education. They don't realize that the philosophy of education is to prepare a child for wholesome living, and methods of teaching should vary with the changing conditions of society. At present vocational education is the most important field that a person can venture into.





PROPOSED GUIDANCE PLAN

In behalf of Dayton High School, I have chosen to write the following guidance plan. After having surveyed the school I chose the points that would be best suited for students of Dayton High School. Not only the students were taken in consideration but the community as a whole. One of the best ways that a community can be elevated is by imparting certain information, to the students, and then in turn impart the information to their parents.

The guidance staff shall be comprised of the following functionaires:

1. Principal, acting as director of guidance
2. Dean of boys
3. Dean of girls
4. P. T. A.
5. Home-room advisors
6. Counselors
7. Visiting teacher
8. Guidance committee

The phases of activity are as follows:

1. Discipline
2. Social conduct

4. Curriculum guidance
5. Vocational guidance
6. Placement
7. Follow-up

The duties of the functionaires are as follows:

1. The principal shall serve as principal and director of guidance. He shall have sole power to direct the program of guidance as he sees fit. The qualification of such person shall be one of great experiences, pleasing personality, and said person would have had a thorough training along the line of vocational and educational guidance.

2. The dean of boys shall be a person whose duties are two-fold. He shall be required to teach and act as dean of boys. He shall be permitted to call meetings with the boys at least once per week. In case of emergency, he could call meetings between scheduled dates. There will be a schedule placed on the bulletin board, of dates that the meetings are to be held. A person qualified for such position shall be one with pleasing personality, a fair knowledge of child psychology, and a general training in guidance. His main duty will be to obtain good discipline among the boys with whom he is to work.

The position of a dean of girls is a very difficult one. Her duties shall be to control attendance, discipline, social conduct, and supervisor of extra-curricular activities. She shall also be required to teach one or more subjects. Like the dean of boys, she will be required to call meetings with the girls at least once per week. Additional meetings may be called between scheduled dates, in case of emergency. The qualification of the dean of girls shall be one of strong character, pleasing personality, social experience, neat appearance, administrative ability, a mark of good leadership, and a good training in adolescent psychology.

One of the main ways by which parents become acquainted with teachers in a school is by the P. T. A. organization, (Parents Teachers Association). This organization shall be comprised of the community, and all teachers employed in the school. Meetings will be held at least once per week. In those various meetings, problems concerning the welfare of the students shall be discussed. Both the teachers and the parents will give their view point on the questions. Solutions to those problems will be suggested.

One of the most common types of advisers, is the

home room advisor. This form of advisor can be found in almost every high school. The duties of the home room advisers shall be to obtain discipline, curriculum guidance, vocational guidance, direction of special home-room activities, and administrative activities. The main factors of home-room advisors are the arrangement of periods, and grouping of the students. Each period shall be 30 minutes long, and the number of periods per week shall be four. The number of students that will be assigned to one room will not exceed thirty. Students shall be grouped according to curriculum or vocational interest pursued. Advisors shall be teachers employed in the school.

Counseling is closely related to advising. By the aid of counselors, many students have been guided on the right road to a vocation. The following article was taken from the Opportunity Magazine of March, 1938: "Expert counseling serves as a means of motivating the student, prevent personality disintegration, and enriching the tone of campus life." "The most vital part of counseling program lies in the first interview, and the teachers subsequent ability to make frequent and informal contacts with the students. The nature of adolescent problems, and the general sensitivity and reticence

of many young people to discuss their problems freely and honestly, make counseling essentially an art."

The counselors shall be the same members that make up the advisory committee. Their duties are almost the same as that of the advisers. Their duties shall be to guide the students; vocational interest, curriculum guidance, measurement of students; intelligence, to keep the director of guidance well informed on students; conditions, and to have conferences with teachers concerning the conditions of students. Counselors shall be persons who have pleasing personality, sufficient maturity to command respect of the students, a general education, and experience as a teacher. They shall be required to hold council with students that are having difficulties.

The guidance committee shall be composed of members of the guidance cabinet as have been stated in the preceeding discussion, this committee shall be the advisers, deans, directors of guidance, and faculties of the school.

The special assistants shall be the following; curriculum advisers, class advisers, club advisers, school librarian, attendance officer, school visitors, doctors and nurse. Those members shall be responsible for the program of guid-

ance in this particular school just as the other functionaires.

In order to maintain health, a doctor or a nurse will be permitted to examine the students from time, to time. A perfect record of students' physical conditions shall be kept. Parents shall be notified concerning the physical conditions of their children, and they shall be encouraged to have the doctors to correct physical conditions.

One of the best ways by which students can become acquainted with the situations of the outside world is through the means of visiting speakers. A speaker shall be invited to talk to students at least once every two months.

The curriculum shall be composed of the following subjects:

A. Mathematics

1. Algebra
2. Arithmetic
3. Geometry, (plane and solid)

B. Natural Science

1. Biology
2. Chemistry
3. Physics

C. Home Economics

1. Vocational Home Economics
2. Home-making
3. Millinery

4. Facility of curriculum transfer

D. Industrial Occupations

3. Specialized occupational courses

1. Automobile mechanic
2. Electricity
3. Carpentry
4. Black-smithing

E. Agriculture

F. Mechanical Drawing

G. Commercial Arts

1. Bookkeeping
2. Typing
3. Clerk
4. Accountant

H. English

1. Composition
2. Grammar
3. Public address
4. American Literature
5. English Literature

I. Foreign Language

1. Latin
2. French

J. Music

The feature of the offering shall be as

follow:

1. Flexible program of studies
2. Elective subjects
3. Curricula for special occupations

4. Facility of curriculum transfer
5. Part-time continuation courses
6. Evening continuation courses

By a flexible program of studies, we mean a program of studies which is intentionally flexible, so as to adopt it to differences in individual needs and interests. A flexible program of studies gives a student a wide range of choice. It is very necessary that a secondary school have such a program.

Modern educators have found that it is very necessary to have elective subjects in a secondary school. By electives we mean certain subjects that are left to the choice of the students. By this mean a student is able to select the subject that he is interested in.

Specialization in occupations is becoming more and more popular in the secondary schools. By this mean, a student is able to prepare himself for one particular type of work. Often we find certain students very efficient in one particular type of work. It is left with the school to increase his efficiency along that particular line of work. This can easily be done, provided a school has a system of occupational specialization.

In considering curriculum transfer, two factors must be considered; namely, students' environment, and freedom for shifting from one curriculum to another. The question of individual differences plays a very important part in curriculum shifting. If a student is doing unsatisfactory work in one curriculum, he should be shifted to one that is best suited to his needs and abilities.

For the benefit of those students who can put only part-time in school, a program administering part-time continuation classes shall be necessary. Many students will have a chance to secure a partial education that they would be otherwise deprived of.

The evening classes shall be especially dedicated to adult people. These classes shall be designed to meet the needs of adult in that particular community. In those classes, the fundamentals of grammar, mathematics, and reading shall be stressed.

The aids that shall be used in helping the students to select a vocation for himself are listed as follows:

1. Course on occupations
2. Bulletins on occupations,
3. Printed program of study

4. College catalogues
5. School paper
6. Special circular on college requirements.

Since most young people have what is known as hidden interests and capacities, a system of exploratory courses is very necessary. These courses shall be as follows; general, regular and special. The general course shall cover a general list of subjects. The most common of the general subjects are mathematics, general science, general social science and general language. In each one of those subjects listed, students are not restricted to no one particular branch or phase of that subject. Those particular subjects listed shall not be restricted to certain groups of students. Each student shall be given a chance to explore the subjects until he sees fit to choose the ones that he is interested in.

In order to give the students a chance to know about different vocations a regular exploratory course shall be given. This course shall be of the same nature as that of the general course. The only different is that a special time will be designated to conduct classes in an exploratory capacity. By such course, students will be told of various vocations that are now in existence. The best way

by which teachers can conduct such a course is by the integration of subject matter. Teachers shall be required to bring in certain vocations, or occupational activities while teaching a certain subject. However, a certain time will be designated for such a course.

In the case of an exploratory course in some special field, the problem of individual differences is again considered. The school is composed of students with different vocational abilities. In order that students be guided properly a special exploratory course shall be had. The course shall include such subjects as practical arts, home economics, commercial arts, and agriculture. It shall be the duty of the teachers to observe students concerning the vocations that they are best suited for. Special emphasis will be placed on such a course.

Extra-curricular activities are very essential in a program of guidance. These activities enable a student to come in contact with many of the problems that might confront him in life. By participating in club activities, a student will gain a knowledge of leadership. When he gets ready to face the world, he will know what it means to be responsible for certain position. Some of the extra-curricular activities that shall be stressed for that particular

school are listed as follows:

1. Clubs of many kinds
2. Athletics (basketball, football, volley ball, tennis, field and track, and base ball)
3. Debating
4. Dramatics
5. Rhythm band

All studentss shall be required to participate in some form of extra-curricula activity while attending school. All secondary schools should have some form of records of students' accomplishment. A cumulative record of a student helps as a guide in the program of guidance. If a student gets under the supervision of a new adviser, this new adviser will know just how to handle such student by looking up his record.

In this present plan that I am instituting, a cumulative record of all students shall be kept. Former students, records shall be kept on file and as a guide for administrative purposes. However, we find some of those records to be inaccurate in many schools. That is caused by the teachers being partial to certain students. Strict observation shall be given to those records before placing them on file. Fair play is a very essential key note to guidance. This policy shall be stressed in behalf of students and teachers.

Placement and follow-up is very necessary in vocational guidance program. So often we find students spending four years in high school, and after finishing are unable to obtain a position for the vocation he prepared himself for. Since this is true a record of the whereabouts of high school graduates should be kept. If a high school graduate is unable to get employment in the field that he prepared himself for, he should be kept informed about the various vocational opportunities. This can be done only by a system of follow-up.

In this particular guidance plan, a system of placement and follow-up shall be instituted, a record of graduated students shall be kept on file. If they are employed, a record of the locations and type of work that they are engaged in shall be kept. Those graduates that are unfortunate in securing a position, shall be followed up also, so that when a chance comes to recommend them for a position, the information will be at hand. Not only shall graduated students be followed up in the field of employment and unemployment, but in the various institutions of higher learning where they will be seeking higher education.

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C O N C L U S I O N

I have chosen what might be considered the most important factors that would be beneficial for the students of Dayton High School. I considered the most important points that go up to make a modern trend of education. Traditional ideas are excluded from this plan. By such a plan students will be exposed to most of the important vocational opportunities offered in any secondary school in America.

"I will prepare myself and some day my chance will come."

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