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John E. Phay

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MARKS SCHOOLS

# EVALUATION

OF THE

MARKS HIGH SCHOOL

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REPORT OF THE VISITING COMMITTEE

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MARKS, MISSISSIPPI

1953

Bur. of Educ. Res.  
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FOREWORD

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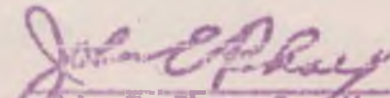
The formal evaluation of the Marks High School by both the Marks School faculty and the Visiting Committee is past. However, informal evaluations made by the faculty, parents and citizens of the community will continue from month to month and from year to year for a long time.

Formal school evaluations are necessary if an accredited school is to be maintained. These evaluations are required so that schools for boys and girls may be made better. The evaluation of the Marks High School should improve the education of Marks' boys and girls. If the suggestions of the Visiting Committee are followed, some changes will be noticed almost immediately while others may be some time in becoming evident. The pupils, teachers, administrators, board members and citizens should work together in improving the Marks High School.

In reading the report of the Visiting Committee, the method of procedure used by the Committee should be kept in mind. Obviously all committee members could not investigate the whole school program. Therefore, small sub-committees were assigned the responsibility of reporting on definite parts of the school program. The sub-committees submitted their reports to the committee of the whole, which for the most part, accepted the statements of the sub-committee. However, the committee was not unanimous in approving several statements contained in the report.

As coordinator, may I express my appreciation to the teachers, administrators, members of the Board of Education, members of the Parent-Teachers Association, and the citizens of Marks for their delightful hospitality and their wonderful cooperation. To my colleagues, the members of the Visiting Committee, are my thanks for their earnest, sincere and hard work and for their "team spirit" which helped to make the evaluation an enjoyable experience for all.

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John E. Phay, Coordinator

## PUPIL POPULATION AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF YOUTH

### INTRODUCTION:

The guiding philosophy of Marks High School, Marks, Mississippi, developed by the faculty and representatives of the student body and community, indicates that a great amount of work and thoughtful study preceded its formulation. Although presented as a general statement, based on high ideals, it embraces the fundamental concepts of what makes up a good school. It is grounded on the principle that the school in a community must meet the needs of the community's children and at the same time possess a degree of flexibility to meet changing needs as they develop in a changing student body. It is established upon a pattern of procedure that involves mutual cooperation between staff, administration and personnel, it ties together the efforts of the home, school and community for the basic purpose of developing the highest qualities of citizenship and individual character on the part of the student body.

Ten specific objectives are proposed to be accomplished within the framework of the school's philosophy. These objectives properly begin with emphasis upon good health, ranging through the development of social skills, citizenship training to an appreciation of beauty in the finer things of life.

The following Commendations and Recommendations are set forth by the Committee from a study and evaluation of these two section reports prepared by the staff, supplemented by classroom visitations, and talks with students and staff members, all within the purview of the philosophy promulgated by the school.



## COMMENDATIONS:

The Committee commends Marks High School for:

1. The development of a school philosophy broad enough in its scope to challenge the most ambitious efforts of all who are concerned with the development of public education in this community.
2. The spirit of cooperation on the part of the faculty with the parents in the organization of an active Parent-Teacher Association with a very large membership joined together through a common interest in the welfare of all the children.
3. Emphasis upon Health and Safety Education through cooperation with county and state health officials and patrol officers.
4. Courses involving the use of audio-visual aids and equipment with clear cut policies for their uses.
5. A fine arts program which maximizes the opportunities of the students inclined toward and interested in instrumental and vocal music and organized band.
6. The active interest in student organizations and encouragement given to over-all student participation.
7. An interscholastic sports program with physical education and recreational opportunities for pupils during the regular school session which gives play privileges to all the children and not just to those engaged in organized athletics.
8. For the school's joining in the recreational advantages provided by the community apart from school supervision.

6. That some research study be given to the effectiveness by which the school is now serving the entire educable population of the school district.

7. That some attention be given the basic reasons for those leaving the school since data shows that out of a present student body of 276 students, forty two left for one cause or other during the preceding session. Transfers from one school to another may account for the majority of these, however, the Committee recommends that some attention be given this situation.

8. That the fine program of follow-up studies on withdrawals and graduates be continued to follow these former students over as many as five or ten years of their post-school history.

9. That the vast reservoir of educational resources as shown by submitted data on the community under Paragraph E be explored to the fullest in an effort to utilize fully for all the children the many cultural and practical advantages of the community.

## BUSINESS STUDIES

### COMMENDATIONS:

The committee feels that the following are the most commendable aspects of the business studies program:

1. Thru the employment of businesslike techniques and procedures of teaching, pupils are motivated to develop skills which have vocational and personal value.
2. The pleasant surroundings, atmosphere and relationships existing in the classrooms, brought about thru the efforts of both students and teachers, are highly commendable.
3. The typewriters are comparatively new and in excellent repair.
4. The Future Business Leaders of America Club is making a definite contribution to the school in its efforts to initiate a follow-up study of all early school leavers and graduates which may then be used as one basis for making curriculum changes to meet the needs of all students.

The committee has the following recommendations to make:

1. The committee suggests that the faculty and administration give considerable thought to placing a secretarial procedures course in the curriculum to meet a very definite need in giving training, terminal in nature, to the 22 per cent of graduates going into clerical and sales field. This course should be taught on the 12th grade level. This need not increase the teacher load, or require extra time of staff members, if additional typewriters are purchased so that the present small 3 sections of typewriting maybe combined to 2.
2. The school newspaper is one of the best public relations media.

It would be considerably improved thru the purchase of an electric typewriter for cutting stencils and ditto master sets and the securing of a better mimeograph machine for the duplicating. In using the electric typewriter and duplicating machine, secretarial practice pupils would gain skill and experience in operating modern machines which are increasingly being used by business.



## HOMEMAKING

### COMMENDATIONS:

1. There is evidence that the program is family centered.
2. A pleasing variety of acceptable techniques is being used in the homemaking classes.
3. There is consistent use of effective audio-visual aids.
4. Students are encouraged to carry a good home experience program in connection with class work.
5. Community resources are being used advantageously.
6. Democratic practices are in evidence and there is a good pupil-teacher relationship.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

In order to create a more attractive homelike atmosphere which provides for managerial efficiency and a variety of experiences contributing to desirable standards of living it is suggested that consideration be given to the following;

1. Utilize enclosed hall area for a dining-living room and add suitable furniture in order to provide experiences for students in all areas of homemaking.
2. Repaint the woodwork in a light color.
3. Replace folding chairs with straight chairs to approximate a hometype situation and to encourage acceptable posture standards in the performance of household tasks.
4. Convert the small room adjoining the food laboratory into an efficient storage area with adequate shelf space and hanging rods.
5. Provide a variety of up-to-date reference books in all areas of homemaking.

6. Add necessary small items of equipment, such as full length mirror, dishes, and kitchen equipment.
7. Provide a clothing cabinet in the clothing laboratory.
8. Provide some books, toys and materials for teaching the area of child development more effectively.

## ENGLISH

The committee wished to emphasize that all teachers in the school should assume responsibility for the aims of the English program. Skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking cannot be developed effectively if they are stressed only in one area.

### COMMENDATIONS:

The committee commends the English staff on the following aspects of the program:

1. There is evidence of enthusiasm on the part of the teachers and the general classroom atmosphere is relaxed and pleasant.
2. There is emphasis on oral English in most classes through dramatizations, choral reading, and reports.
3. There is an awareness of the possibility of improving speech defects.
4. There is an opportunity for many students to use oral English skills in assembly programs.
5. An effort is made to relate English usage to the daily life of the student.
6. There is fairly good use of audio-visual materials, and especially good use of the tape recorder.
7. There is evidence of correlation with other areas, such as business education and social studies.
8. The English teachers seem to be aware of many problems in the teaching of English and show a genuine interest in improving the program.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee suggests:

1. That provisions be made for the English teachers to participate in regularly scheduled meetings for the purposes of in-service training and co-ordination of the program.

Topics that could profitably be discussed are:

- a. Clear statement of aims of the English program from 7th through 12th grades.
- b. Possible means of acquainting parents with these aims and securing their cooperation in attaining them.
- c. Agreement on procedures to be used in reaching the goals of the English program. For example, if the ability to speak and write acceptably is to be an aim, the members of the staff might investigate the efficacy of all procedures used to contribute toward development of these skills. Research in this area indicates clearly that certain procedures are more effective than others.

2. That the aims of the various classes be stated in both general and individual terms so that all students will not be expected to attain exactly the same proficiency in all areas. Evaluation of progress could then be made in terms of the stated objectives.

3. That the reading program be organized around interest themes, preferably certain topics of particular value to adolescents.



Reading materials on various levels could be provided in the classroom and reading would be related to the central topic.

4. That grammar be taught in relation to student needs, and on an individual basis. An analysis of speech and writing difficulties could provide the basis for instruction in this area. Emphasis should be placed on ability to use the language effectively rather than on the ability to explain grammatical rules.

5. That more emphasis be placed on the mass media of communication. The committee would suggest units on radio, television, movies, etc, with attention given to discriminating and ethical use of these media.

6. That more student management of classes be attempted. Small group activities, with opportunities for planning, carrying out and evaluating such activities could contribute a great deal to developing democratic practices.

7. That attention be given to investigating and discussing current and controversial issues in the English classroom.

8. That provision be made for filing student work in English. Folders of certain materials written during the year would be helpful in long-term student and teacher evaluation, and would contribute to the teacher's knowledge of the student the following year.

9. That the English teachers be encouraged to make every effort to acquaint themselves with latest theory and procedures in the teaching of English, through formal course work, reading programs, and the in-service training program suggested above.

## MATHEMATICS

### COMMENDATIONS

1. Teacher-pupil relationship is good in as far as this committee has observed.
2. There is much evidence of pupil participation in class activities and an atmosphere of democracy is prevalent in all discussions between pupil and pupil and between teacher and pupil.
3. There is evidence of individual instruction and patience shown by the teachers with those pupils who are slow to grasp.
4. The mathematics program in general is functioning well in teaching fundamentals and as a preparatory course for college training.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That equipment be provided for blackboard demonstrations, compasses, protractors, yardsticks, graph boards, and models should be sufficient in each room in which mathematics is taught.
2. That all ninth grade students be allowed, after guidance and counseling, to elect either general mathematics or first year algebra. The practice of requiring the grade to be "A" in eighth grade arithmetic before being eligible to take Algebra I. is questionable.
3. That more differential in planning activities for the different levels in each section be made.
4. Due to the fact that 60% of the pupils terminate their formal education with the completion of the high school course, we believe that a course in functional arithmetic would be more beneficial to this group than either plane geometry or second year algebra. It is our opinion that this course could be added without overloading present personnel.

## PROGRAM OF STUDIES

The program of studies of a high school comprises all of the courses of instruction available to the secondary-school pupils. These courses are usually planned to meet not only the common educational needs of all youth, but also the special or individual needs.

When these course offerings are adequate and effective, desirable changes based on important knowledges and skills for present and future living in a democratic society, are produced in the habits, understandings, attitudes, and ideals of youth.

In a complex, dynamic society it is necessary for a school staff to assume leadership in the frequent review and examination of the school's philosophy, in the continuous process of improving the program of studies in relation to the changing needs and interests of pupils, and the community, and in the methods and materials of instruction.

### COMMENDATIONS:

The committee commends the staff for recognizing many of the problems of the areas mentioned above and for the beginnings made in the solution of some of them.

The committee further commends the school for the following specific achievements in the program of studies:

1. Clear evidence of high morals in the student body.
2. Fine teacher-pupil, pupil-pupil, and teacher-administration relationships.
3. A cooperatively developed written statement of philosophy.
4. Indications of some curriculum changes following surveys of pupil needs and interests.



5. Marked enthusiasm by many teachers to make content subjects interesting, fresh, and challenging for the pupils.

6. Considerable evidence of a permissive and releasing environment conducive to learning experiences.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The committee wishes to direct attention to the following items in the program of study in which possible improvements may be effected:

1. An examination of the daily schedule with the purpose in view of lengthening the time allotted to chemistry, homemaking, general science, and all other laboratory courses.

2. A review of the junior high school schedule in order to determine if larger blocks of time would facilitate learning experiences and better bridge the gap between the elementary and secondary school.

3. Constant study of the total educational offerings, community and pupil needs, and the addition of courses deemed essential as a result of such a continuing survey.

4. An early examination of available data to determine if the present course of study is broad enough to meet the probable needs of many pupils in agriculture and industrial arts, and in physical education, health, music, and foreign language.

## LITERARY SERVICES

The school library shares in the total school program by providing materials to enrich the school program. The distinctive purpose of the school library is to help students to develop abilities and habits of purposefully using books and libraries in attaining their goals of living.

A well-equipped, competently directed, and properly utilized library is not the responsibility of the librarian alone. The administration, faculty, and students all have a part in bringing about effective library service. The administration should clearly perceive the place the library should occupy in the school. The faculty should help the librarian build the collection and use the facilities in carrying on the work of their classes. The students should help the librarian in book selection, utilize the materials available, and take proper care of library property.

### COMMENDATIONS:

1. Great improvement in the physical set-up of the library has been made.
2. There are a large number of student assistants who show unusual pride in the work they do. Through their work as assistants and their membership in the Library Club they are provided exploratory experiences in the field of library work.
3. The prebound books which are being purchased should wear well and will prove economical in a long range program.
4. Several hundred out-of-date, worn, and useless books have been discarded from the library.
5. The bulletin boards in the library provide display space for information concerning books, guidance, and other items of interest.

6. Work is continuing in providing the needed subject cards for the card catalog.
7. Wilson printed cards are being purchased to give uniformity to the card catalog and to relieve the librarian from the time consuming work of cataloging.
8. Instruction in the use of books and libraries is being given. Panel discussions are held in some classes and in some homeroom groups on the use of the library.
9. A good beginning has been made on the collection of educational and occupational information materials.
10. Work has begun on a file of Mississippi materials. Students are helping to gather information on Marks and Quitman County.
11. There is evidence that library materials are being used in many classes.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. An increased library budget for several years is recommended to build a book collection that will meet the needs of the Marks High School.
2. Special attention should be given to strengthening the book collection in homemaking, science, literature, social sciences, and business education.
3. It is recommended that the policy of discarding books be a continuous one and that only books that are suitable to and needed in a high school.

4. Protective covers will help to preserve the periodicals so that files of them may be maintained for reference purposes.

5. Attention given to strengthening the professional shelf and increasing the use of the resulting collection.

6. Although a good beginning has been made on giving instruction in the library, a more effective and complete program might be provided if the librarian and the classroom teachers would arrive at a systematic plan which would include instruction to students during their first year of use of the library and provide integrated instruction and reviews throughout high school. Provision should be made for students who enter this school after the seventh grade.

7. It is recommended that the desks in the library be replaced by tables and chairs.

8. Improvement has recently been made in the physical facilities of the library, but in its present location the library is limited in its provision for storage space, work room, and conference room. In future planning for building or remodeling, the needs of the school for a library with facilities in keeping with a modern school program should be kept in mind.



## HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SAFETY

### COMMENDATIONS:

1. Democratic procedures are in evidence in all classes.
2. Pupil leadership is encouraged.
3. Good pupil-teacher relationship.
4. A very fine athletic field and gymnasium are present.
5. The play area is sufficient.
6. An excellent start has been made in the drivers training program.
7. The physical education equipment and supplies are sufficient for present needs.
8. The present physical education program has carry-over value.
9. The physical education staff is well trained in its field.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Medical and dental examinations are desirable for those entering the physical education program.
2. Health should be taught in conjunction with the physical education program.
3. Consideration should be given in scheduling driver education for all ninth grade pupils.
4. Physical education for all high school girls and boys to create more social and physical development.
5. Achievement records to help teachers in evaluation of the program as well as assisting all teachers to have a better understanding of each student.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATION 6. As the physical education program expands adequate equipment and supplies should be provided.

- 1. There is need for a wide variety of sporting equipment such as balls, rackets, tennis, and many other items, jerseys, and other accessories, and small group items.
- 2. There is need for large equipment such as benches, jumpers, and apparatus for individual instruction.
- 3. There is need for a wide variety of athletic shoes and other accessories.
- 4. There is need for maintenance of the equipment and supplies.
- 5. There is need for a wide variety of athletic shoes and other accessories.
- 6. There is need for a wide variety of athletic shoes and other accessories.
- 7. There is need for a wide variety of athletic shoes and other accessories.
- 8. There is need for a wide variety of athletic shoes and other accessories.
- 9. There is need for a wide variety of athletic shoes and other accessories.
- 10. There is need for a wide variety of athletic shoes and other accessories.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. It is recommended that the physical education program be expanded to include all students from the first to the fourth grade level. This expansion should be gradual and should be financed by the levying of a special tax on the general public.
- 2. The physical education program should be expanded to include all students from the first to the fourth grade level.
- 3. There should be increased use of community resources.
- 4. There should be increased use of community resources.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### COMMENDATIONS:

1. Pupil planning is evidenced.
2. There is use of a wide variety of teaching techniques such as; debate, panel discussion, oral report, written report, lecture, socialized recitation, and small group study.
3. Teachers emphasize large units based on trends, movements, and developments of historical importance.
4. Some use is made of audio-visual aids such as; 16mm films, and the tape recorder.
5. Practice for democratic living through democratic classroom procedure is provided.
6. Pupil-teacher relationships are conducive to effective study.
7. Classrooms are comfortable and attractive.
8. Good use is made of the available library materials.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. At least one staff member should be provided who will give his full time to the social studies field. This person should be specifically trained and primarily interested in the teaching of courses in the social studies field.
2. Give serious consideration to the inclusion in the curriculum of social studies courses at the 12th grade level.
3. There should be increased use of community resources.
4. Continue the current effort toward and improve upon the individualization of instruction.

- 5. Increase library materials available for use in the social studies.
- 6. Make provision for the continuous and constructive self evaluation of the social studies program.

The Department of the Public Schools has been successful in securing the necessary funds for the purchase of the materials for the social studies program. The Department has also been successful in securing the necessary funds for the purchase of the materials for the social studies program. The Department has also been successful in securing the necessary funds for the purchase of the materials for the social studies program.

A. Current Status and Recommendations of the Program

The Department has been successful in securing the necessary funds for the purchase of the materials for the social studies program. The Department has also been successful in securing the necessary funds for the purchase of the materials for the social studies program. The Department has also been successful in securing the necessary funds for the purchase of the materials for the social studies program.

B. Full Implementation of the Program

The Department has been successful in securing the necessary funds for the purchase of the materials for the social studies program. The Department has also been successful in securing the necessary funds for the purchase of the materials for the social studies program. The Department has also been successful in securing the necessary funds for the purchase of the materials for the social studies program.



## PUPIL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

### INTRODUCTION:

Democratic practices in a school can grow only when the accepted philosophy of the school is conducive to their growth. Many of these practices may be encouraged within the framework of the activity program. Such vital experiences as student elections, committee services, use of parliamentary procedures majority rule, group service projects, and training in leadership and followership may find a more effective place here than in any other phase of the educational program. These experiences have been found to have a carry-over value into vocational planning and adult living.

#### 1. General Nature and Organization of the Program.

Commendation certainly should be given the administration, the faculty, and the community for the progress that has been made in the development of the entire activity program. The Committee feels that the planning of activities outside the formal classroom procedures has been thoughtful, conscientious, and democratic. Students seem appreciative of the program and enter into the activities with a great deal of enthusiasm. There is evidence of an integration of all students within the activity program.

#### 2. Pupil Participation in School Affairs.

The Committee commends the school for the organization of a Student Council. From a study of the Student Council Constitution and talks with members of the Council and their adviser, it would seem that the Council understands the nature of its organization and the scope of its functions. There is every indication that once the Council becomes more firmly entrenched in the life of the school, it will discover additional ways of developing leadership and coordinating activities within the school.

### 3. Homerooms:

The "homeroom idea" has been recognized as a means of fostering within the student a feeling of belonging to a particular group within the school environment. This high school should be commended for the organization of home rooms and for the favorable pupil-teacher response in the presentation of regular programs during home room meetings. It is suggested that before the next election of home room officers, consideration be given within each of the home rooms to desirable qualifications for these officers to insure maximum use of the home room period.

### 4. The School Assembly:

The Committee had no opportunity to observe an assembly. From a list of assembly programs previously presented it would seem that an attempt is made to include programs that are educational, informational, and entertaining. There is evidence of pupil participation in assembly programs. In an attempt to provide a unifying device for assembly programs, some schools have found it helpful to select a student-teacher committee to direct the over-all planning for assemblies.

### 5. School Publications:

The school newspaper, the year book, and the handbook are recognized as three types of publications necessary in an educationally alert school. This high school has both the newspaper and the yearbook.

The Committee has read with interest several recent issues of the newspaper, The Loudspeaker. It is of the opinion that the value and reading appeal of this paper might be enhanced by a more attractive format. Therefore it is suggested that consideration be given to the use of the electric typewriter, recommended in the business education report,

in getting out the paper. Such a procedure would not only produce a more readable paper but would at the same time provide learning experiences both for the paper staff and for the class in secretarial practices.

The Committee would like to suggest that the yearbook be reconsidered in the light of the expense and time involved in its planning. In the event that the yearbook continues to be published, consideration might be given to introducing into this publication more original and creative material of an artistic and literary nature.

An invaluable aid in helping new students to adjust to a school situation, in informing students about their school, and in acquainting parents with school policies is the student handbook. The Committee would like to recommend that this school consider such a publication and the contribution that it may make to the total school program.

#### 6. Music Activities:

Since these activities are treated under another section of this evaluation, they are not included here.

#### 7. Dramatic and Speech Activities.

Although the Committee appreciates the efforts being made within the instructional program to provide students with training in oral communication and speech interpretation, it should be pointed out that pupils often need an additional outlet for the development of their talents and powers for self-expression. These opportunities are often provided for in schools through the organization of dramatic and debate societies. The Committee recommends that the faculty investigate the desire on the part of the students for such opportunities in the speech arts for the purpose of answering that need within the activity program.



#### 8. Social Life and Activities:

The Committee believes that the community should share with the school the responsibility for providing opportunities for leisure-time activities in a wholesome and attractive setting. The Community and the school are to be praised for their cooperation in the planning and supervision of the Youth Center. There is evidence that all students share equally in the enjoyment of this center and that students themselves have an active part in the regulations governing the center.

Further, the faculty is to be commended for cooperating in the supervision of all social activities that originate within the school and for their encouragement of these social affairs.

#### 9. School Clubs:

The various clubs that have been recently organized within this school appear to be serving the purpose for which they were intended. While many of these clubs have developed little beyond the organizational stage, it might well be that these initial steps will prove to be of value to those members who participated in the formation of the clubs. Since only about sixty-six per cent of the students are members of one or more of these clubs, it is suggested that a survey be made to determine what additional clubs might be included to interest those students not participating in the club program.

Teachers who are club advisers seem to be competent and enthusiastic. Membership in the clubs is on a voluntary basis and in many instances the clubs are brought into relationship with like clubs by a state and national affiliation.



Attention might be given to ways of assuring the continuation of a desirable club from year to year. Perhaps the election of officers at the end of the year to serve for the following school session would be helpful. Many schools have found that the drawing up of a club constitution encourages the perpetuation of a club while at the same time provides a desirable learning experience for club members.

#### 10. Finances of Pupil Activities:

Activity monies are in the regular school funds and students make use of clubs and organization funds as the need arises and upon proper presentation of requests.

#### 11. General Evaluation of the Pupil Activity Program:

Finally it should be stated that there should be a continuous student-teacher evaluation of the activity program to determine the value of certain activities and the means whereby the program might be broadened and enriched.

9. Courses in vocational education including homemaking and business education.

10. For the general concern of the school administration for teacher and student personnel as shown in Committee members' folders on such items as general and daily schedules, individual instruction sheets, school calendars, report cards, etc.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee recommends to the Marks High School:

1. That a study of the advisability of offering vocational agriculture and/or industrial arts since the records show a sizeable rural population served by the school.
2. That a study of the advisability of setting up a part-time cooperative training program to prepare local young people for prospective employment in local businesses.
3. That a study of the advisability of strengthening the school's guidance program. Of the present Senior Class 38.71% are undecided on occupational intentions and 29.03% on educational intentions which represent approximately one-third of the thirty one members of the present Senior Class.
4. That consideration be given to offering secretarial office procedure in addition to the courses that are now offered in business education.
5. That consideration be given to providing public school music for the elementary school, including all eight grades or especially the first six grades.

## SCIENCE

### COMMENDATIONS

1. The science staff is to be commended for its efforts to arouse interest in science both in the community and among students.
2. A good pupil-teacher relationship exists. Pupils feel at ease in the classroom.
3. Pupil participation was evident in the various science classes.
4. It was apparent that available library resources were being used effectively.
5. A well edited bibliography on science books and pamphlets in the library was available.
6. Class differences were taken care of in biology sections.
7. Although all ninth grade boys are required to take general science over 50 per cent of the high school students were enrolled in science courses.
8. Modern laboratory facilities were provided.
9. Use of pupil projects was in evidence.
10. A variety of class procedures such as study guides, pupil reports, and pupil demonstrations, tend to create good pupil interest in scientific attitudes and problem solving.
11. Laboratory equipment is stored in an orderly manner. Care is taken of the equipment. A locked store room for chemicals and equipment is provided.
12. The use of local industry and field trips as a learning experience for Chemistry students motivates those that are scientifically inclined for future studies.

12. Science News Letter and other current scientific periodicals should be obtained as well as additional free materials from various industries.

13. Pupil projects could be displayed as a motivation device for other students.

14. As the curriculum is expanded the advisability of freshmen boys being required to take general science should be studied.



## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. A senior course in science for those that are not planning to go to college. Lack of a complete seventh and eighth grade science program this year makes it difficult for students to have a continuous process in the field of science.
2. Since the teaching of modern science is very dependent on adequate scientific equipment, additional biological charts, bulletin board space, models, specimens, aquarium, a modern microscope or some form of micro projection apparatus should be provided.
3. An additional laboratory table is needed.
4. Increase the length of the afternoon periods or arrange chemistry in the schedule so that more than a 48 minute period will be available.
5. It is the view of the committee that senior girls taking ninth grade science is not desirable.
6. Film projector equipment should be made more accessible.
7. Class activities in the use of the text book in some classes should be improved.
8. There are still possibilities of further pupil participation especially in the biological sciences.
9. A yearly inventory and requisition list on science equipment should be made.
10. A broadened curriculum would avoid compelling certain students to take advanced science.
11. A continued effort should be made to create further interest in advanced science.

## GUIDANCE SERVICES

Whenever there is a student-teacher relationship, some "guidance," is bound to occur. Thus, "guidance," as such, is not new in our public schools. However, the concept of an organized program of guidance services as an essential part of the total school program has been developed within recent years.

The ultimate aim of such a program is to assist the individual student to become increasingly self-directive in making wise decisions and choices on the basis of a thorough understanding of himself and the opportunities available to him to the end that he will be a well adjusted individual prepared to make his major contribution to a democratic society.

It is generally accepted that the best way to develop an organized program of guidance services is to have the staff members accept a philosophy of education consistent with basic guidance principles. These staff members, then, may initiate a number of guidance activities which will assist in converting philosophy to action.

The administrators and faculty members of Marks Public schools are certainly commended for having developed a philosophy which is consistent with sound guidance principles, for having initiated a variety of guidance activities and for the steps which have been taken to adjust the total school program to the needs of the students.

The major results of such a program will not be obvious until after these students have left the school situation. Consequently, the committee has attempted in this brief time to evaluate, through interviews with students and staff members and the administration of questionnaires to 49 per cent of the students, only the quantitative aspects of the guidance program.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee recommends that in any future planning for the further development of the guidance program the administration and faculty give consideration to the following:

1. Continuation of the in-service training program is needed to aid in developing plans for additional guidance activities and services. Staff members are also encouraged to take advantage of off-campus and on-campus guidance courses offered by graduate institutions.
2. A faculty committee, representing all grade levels, should be encouraged to plan a coordinated individual inventory system which will be cumulative for grades 1-12 rather than 7-12 only.
3. A committee representing all grade levels, should plan a coordinated testing program for grades 1-12 which, as funds, time, and preparation of staff members (to interpret and utilize results) permit might be expanded to include reading, achievement, and aptitude tests.
4. Some consideration should be given to the need for more adequate records on the physical status of all students.
5. Results of the Kuder Preference Record and Youth Inventory should be studied even further and compared with the present curricular and co-curricular offerings to assist in determining whether or not these programs are currently providing adequately for the interests, abilities and needs of all students.
6. Considering the fact that students come to this school from several communities, an even stronger orientation program might be planned cooperatively by the student council and the staff members.
7. Prior to making committee assignments for group work or to selecting students for certain activities, teachers should study carefully the results of the sociometric studies in order that those students needing recognition and closer integration with the group may be given assignments which will



which will meet these needs.

8. There is evidence of a need for further individualization of instruction and revision of contents of some courses on the basis of identified needs of students.

9. There appears to be a need for additional exploratory experiences particularly for boys. (Suggestions; courses in agriculture and/or industrial arts and a planned work study program if it is not possible to initiate a part-time cooperative training program at this time.)

10. Information provided in the section on pupil population and School community shows that a high percentage of the present seniors are uncertain about their educational and occupational intentions. This would seem to indicate a need for more individual counseling in helping them to reach their own decisions.

11. Through a follow-up study of graduates and early school leavers an effort should be made to determine the present employment status of those who left the school situation one, three, and five years ago. If students are leaving this community to work elsewhere, plans should be made for taking students now in school on trips and tours to those places in order that they may gain first hand information about job opportunities available, job seeking techniques, etc.

12. Tentative plans for a student-conductor follow-up survey of early school leavers and graduates should be carried to completion and the findings used to supplement all other information used as bases for revising curricular and co-curricular offerings and contents of courses.

13. And finally, it is suggested that one faculty member be encouraged to pursue studies in counselor training in order to be better prepared to coordinate these guidance activities and to provide professional counseling, as needed and that, as funds permit, this counselor be given part-time during the regular school day to perform these duties.



## COMMENDATIONS:

The Committee has found the following to be the most commendable aspects of the guidance program:

1. There is considerable evidence that the administration and faculty not only recognize and accept the principles of guidance but are interested in developing a well organized program of guidance services.
2. Through an in-service training program staff members have become better acquainted with the basic principles of guidance programs and the use of guidance tools and techniques.
3. Individual inventories, in separate folders for each student, are properly filed, protected, and readily accessible for use by staff members.
4. Results and interpretations of a standardized testing program (including the S. R. A. Primary Mental Abilities for students in grades 7-12 Kuder Record-Vocational for students in grades 9-12 and the Youth and Junior Inventories for students in grades 7-12) have assisted the administration and faculty members in identifying the scholastic abilities, interests, problems, and needs of students.
5. The Quitman County Health Department and the P. T. A. have cooperated with the school in giving hearing and vision tests to all students.
6. Personal data inventories and autobiographies provide considerable information about each student's home and family background, activities, and interests, likes and dislikes, and plans for the future.
7. Well prepared sociometric studies have assisted staff members in identifying groups and leaders within groups as well as the isolates.
8. There is evidence that some teachers are utilizing information available about students (including the results of standardized tests) to individualize instruction and adapt contents of courses to the needs of students.
9. The grading system takes into consideration the individual differences of students.

10. There is evidence that the needs, interests and expressed desires of students have been taken into consideration when determining courses to be offered and the contents of those courses.
11. The library is providing increasing amounts of current educational occupational, and social-personal informational materials which students use frequently in preparing assignments for English and business education classes and planning programs for home-room periods.
12. Career Days and attractive bulletin board displays in the library are used as means of disseminating occupational and educational information.
13. Some exploratory experiences are provided for both boys and girls, through the curricular and co-curricular programs--particularly in home-making classes, business education classes, glee clubs, library club, school publications and L-H clubs.
14. In student-planned and student-executed homeroom programs an opportunity is provided for group consideration of common problems.
15. The community has supported, with interest and finances, a Youth Center which provides opportunities for some supervised recreational activity.
16. Students indicate that they like school and that their teachers understand them; and they appear to be happy and well adjusted in the school situation.

## MUSIC

### COMMENDATIONS:

1. The Marks High School is commended for providing adequate facilities and personnel for private piano instruction.
2. The students of Marks High School seem to recognize the importance and need of cultural experiences in the school program. Interest is evident for additional opportunities in music.
3. There is a very noticeable "carry over" of school music activities into the community life of Marks.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. A course in general music is recommended. Particular emphasis should be given to the teaching of intelligent music consumer-ship through directed listening, singing, and playing experiences.
2. Some consideration should be given to a more effective schedule for all music classes.
3. Music rooms, including adequate storage facilities, are needed for both choral and instrumental classes.
4. It would be well to consider the possibility of adding a full time teacher who could teach high school choral music and offer supervision of school music to the elementary grades.

## SCHOOL STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

### PART I.

#### INTRODUCTION:

The Visiting Committee believes that effective cooperation between teaching Staff and Administration is indispensable in the successful operation of any school. There is nothing in a class room as important as a good teacher. Neither is there any influence so helpful in making a good school, as a sympathetic, straight-forward and capable administrative leadership. Since the school superintendent is the key person in the administration of the school, it is appropriate to remind ourselves again that "As is the superintendent so is the school!"

The Committee finds substantial evidence of strong, capable yet democratic leadership on the part of the administrative staff of the Marks Public School system which is conducive to the development of a wholesome school atmosphere. There is a certainty of interest on the part of teachers, principals and superintendent that shows concern for the welfare of all the students enrolled in the school.

#### COMMENDATIONS:

The Committee commends the Marks Public School for:

1. A board of trustees that is concerned about the progress of the school and that gives support to the school superintendent in the conduct of the school.
2. A superintendent who keeps his board, his faculty, student body, patrons and general public informed on what is happening in the school.



3. A staff which, from all evidence available to the Committee, works agreeably together under the leadership of the Superintendent to whom loyalty is expressed by word and deed. And for the combined efforts of staff and administration dedicated to the general good of the student body.
4. The modesty of the staff and administration who in their own evaluation in many instances failed to rate properly the fine work going on in the school.
5. The affiliation of the teachers, principals and superintendent with local, state and national education association.
6. Making available to each teacher one period during the day to be used for conferences with students and/or parents or visits to the library to do some extra professional reading.
7. A pre-school planning program and a program of in-service training of the staff in regular and periodic staff meetings.
8. The utilization of the school plant for teacher-training or adult education through the extension services of the University of Mississippi.
9. An excellent system of records that reveals, without too much explanation, information about students and financial accounting.
10. A single salary schedule for staff regardless of sex or the grade level on which the teacher works.
11. The fine spirit of cooperation between administration, staff, student body and community as exemplified in the adoption of and promulgation of the school's philosophy.
12. For the evidence of good teaching going on in the school, much of which goes far beyond the traditional method of class room instruction into experimental areas, the effectiveness of which appears to be satisfactory.

13. The maintenance and care of the school plant which, in several instances, shows over-crowded conditions.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee recommends to the Marks Public School:

1. That the school board adopt a regular monthly meeting date and place and faithfully observe these meetings. That the school board have written policies that are provided teachers and patrons.
2. That the superintendent of the school be bonded to protect him in the handling of school funds.
3. That a sick leave plan be adopted for the staff and administration and that not less than five days per year may be allowed against sickness or unforeseen emergencies without loss of pay. Plans to secure a substitute who will be paid a per diem amount should be made.
4. That the administration recognize the regulation of the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges relating to the employment of only those teachers who have degrees from approved four year colleges or universities, with proper teacher training for professional certification.
5. That a salary schedule be adopted which will conform to the regulations of the Southern Association.
6. That two additional staff members be employed, (1) to relieve the over-crowded conditions in at least two class rooms; (2) to provide more time for the principal and superintendent to use in supervision, and (3) to provide a regular teacher for the class in Bible so that the accrediting regulations of the Southern Association and of the State of Mississippi will not be violated.

7. That the local newspaper be utilized by the staff and administration as a means of providing information about the school program and in promoting broader public relations.

8. That the students' report card be revised to provide a grading system that will evaluate his progress in all areas.

9. That the Faculty Handbook be written by a faculty and administration committee in the light of the faculty philosophy and the Committee's evaluation.

## SCHOOL PLANT

In supplying school house needs that will meet the demands for educating the youth of today, communities must follow one of two plans. Old buildings that have been used for years and are now antiquated as far as their usefulness as a modern facility is concerned, may be abandoned and new construction begun. This plan will, of course, entail a considerable amount of capital outlay, but the community can be assured of a modern educational plant that should serve its needs without much cost of repair for fifteen or twenty years.

On the other hand, a community may repair the old plant in an effort to make it presentable and useable for an additional number of years. In following this line it must be remembered that the school house will continue to be an old building, and, although presentable to the eye, it will have its limitations in meeting school needs according to the more recent trends. Furthermore, experience has proved that repairs to most buildings, beyond twenty five to thirty years of age, no matter how extensive, must be contemplated every four or five years. Thus, within a period of a few years we can safely predict that capital outlay in meeting the school building needs will be about the same whether we follow the plan of demolishing and building anew, or the plan of repairing.

The above philosophy of school building needs is submitted in this report primarily to point out the fact to the Marks High School community that although recent repairs to the plant have enhanced its usefulness, the citizens who bear the expense may expect to face the same conditions every four or five years on a building of this type.



The wisdom of completing the repairs spoken of here is a matter for the board and citizens to consider. However, if this is done, we deem it imperative to point out the necessity of continuing the process.

The administrative authorities of the Marks School community have been wise in providing a modern and functional building for its elementary students. This Committee would like to observe that in elementary building facilities the Marks School will compare most favorably with that of communities in the surrounding area. However that commendation cannot be made concerning the high school building.

The Marks community is recognized throughout the area of the Delta and North Mississippi as being a substantial and progressive city. By its civic improvements,—the new homes that cover the area, and the very evident pride of its citizens the committee believes that a great majority of the people of Marks desire for their children the best that can be had in school facilities. Therefore, we again must state that we feel it imperative to remind you that the present building, housing the high school students in Marks, is not comparable with what we believe to be the desires and wishes of the type of citizen that makes up the Marks community.

Specifically we would like to offer the following commendations and recommendations. We recognize that there might be good reason why some of the suggestions made, may not, and indeed could not, be carried out immediately, but we believe that the purpose of this type of committee is to point its suggestions toward the highest type of goals.

## COMMENDATIONS:

1. The administrative authorities and the community in general are to be commended on supplying a very acceptable type of elementary building to house the children that will in time make up the high school population.
2. It is also commendable that this community has not forgotten the Negro youth as evidenced by a new addition of six classrooms to the Negro school and plans for further enlargement.
3. The recent efforts to make the high school building an acceptable "school-day" home for high school students by redecorations, re-arranging, and repairing in general is commendable.
4. The administrative officers have evidenced a keen sense of the needs of the children in plant utilization.
5. The artificial lighting in each classroom is sufficient to meet the needs.
6. The establishment within the building of an administrative suite that is very acceptable.
7. The physical education building is complete and adequate for a school of this size and the modern athletic field completes this program of the building needs.
8. We commend the co-operative effort of citizens of the town and the school in providing tennis courts, etc., for the recreational area of the school.
9. The conversion of the old auditorium into a library has been accomplished to the advantage of the students, although certain limitations still exist in this area.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The over-all beauty of the entire plant could be greatly enhanced by the use of shrubs, etc., or a general landscaping of the grounds, particularly to the rear of the buildings.
2. The Committee agrees with the committee on self-evaluation that the Home Economics Department could be moved to another portion of the building and a corridor be made through the present homemaking department leading to the covered passageway to the gymnasium. We suggest that the authorities study the possibility of so arranging this portion of the building so as to allow for the corridor, and the possible conversion of one side of the area into a science laboratory of sufficient size to meet the needs as they may be felt.
3. All toilet facilities should be thoroughly clean and those replaced which are antiquated and are beyond renovation because of the many years of use.
4. The busses, which are school owned, should be supplied with first aid kits, fire extinguishers and the emergency doors should be operating and in order.
5. We suggest that the use of dust mops in the place of push brooms for daily maintenance be investigated.
6. A scheduled building inspection and maintenance program will facilitate keeping school buildings in a most acceptable state of repair. Although we realize that the present administration makes definite and scheduled inspection of the entire plant, we specifically recommend that a maintenance schedule be adopted whereby within a certain period of time all rooms or parts of each building will be repaired, re-painted, and kept in an acceptable manner.

By following this procedure the complete repairing of an entire building at one particular time or date often can be avoided.

7. We feel it necessary to point out that although the gymnasium as such is adequate, its use as a combination auditorium-gymnasium does not always provide a situation that will meet the needs of the present day school.

8. Although the cafeteria is managed and run in an acceptable manner, it must be pointed out that the present cafeteria building is not in keeping with the Marks community, nor the present Marks school building program. We suggest that the school investigate the possibility of erecting a new cafeteria between the elementary building and the gymnasium. This, of course, will necessitate the erection, of a bus dock at some other location around the building, but it is believed this could be accomplished without too much outlay of expenditure.

9. There is a very evident need of covered concrete passageway or walk from the present high school building to the gymnasium and the cafeteria.

10. It is strongly recommended that a fireproof vault or fire resistant filing cabinet be provided for the safe keeping of all records.

11. There is a very evident need for providing a band room to meet the present needs of the students of this school.

12. It is suggested that the authorities study the possibility of changing the color on the woodwork when future repairs are considered.



13. There is a definite need for student lockers for the use of all high school students.

14. We suggest that a careful study be made of floors on the second story to determine how they may be improved both as to appearance and maintenance.

15. Finally, the committee suggests that the community continue to study its school building needs looking toward establishing a high school plant equal to elementary facilities.