Howard Co. insists students understand

When people ask, "What kind of school system do you have?" they really mean, "What is the philosophy of education?"

The Howard County Public School System operates on a philosophy of education which was adopted by the Board of Education of Howard County in October, 1972.

The statement of philosophy is divided into General Goals, the Learning Process, the Instructional Process, the Curriculum and the School Plant.

GENERAL GOALS

We believe that educational programs must relate to the present and future needs of youth, and that youth must appreciate the culture and values of our democratic society. It is our task to facilitate desirable mental, physical, social and ethical development of our students.

Also, we insist that students achieve command of the fundamental process in school settings in which they may practice good citizenship. In our schools we seek to educate students to explore their own capacities and aptitudes. Such activities are carried on through programs designed to help them to be effective in their chosen vocations.

Students must be helped to understand themselves and to understand the process through which our society grows and develops.

LEARNING PROCESS — INSTRUCTIONAL PROCESS

Experience has shown that teaching and learning are interrelated. We know that the characteristics of learners are as varied as individuals and the school system must respond to these differences.

Because learning is an active process, instruction must also be active. It is the task of the school to do whatever is possible to provide students with experiences which are meaningful to them as individuals.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum can be defined simply as "all of the experiences provided by the school for the achievement of its objective." Such experiences will include exploration and experimentation, skill development, growth of critical thinking and teacher-directed as well as student-planned activities.

SCHOOL PLANT

All of the above must occur in appropriate settings. The school building still remains the primary place in which formal education of students occurs. It is also the center for many community activities and services.

In September, 1979, the Board of Education of Howard County will be operating twenty-seven elementary schools, eleven middle schools, eight high schools, one vocational - technical school and one Special Education Center.

Of these nineteen elementary schools, six middle schools and five high schools have been built since 1968. Ten of the other schools have been renovated since 1968.

Howard County's schools provide options for teaching, which are essential to meet the needs of the county's diverse student population. Among these options are the following:

(1.) Areas for team teaching
(2.) Areas for individualized study
(3.) Areas for small-group instruction
(4.) Areas for large-group instruction

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