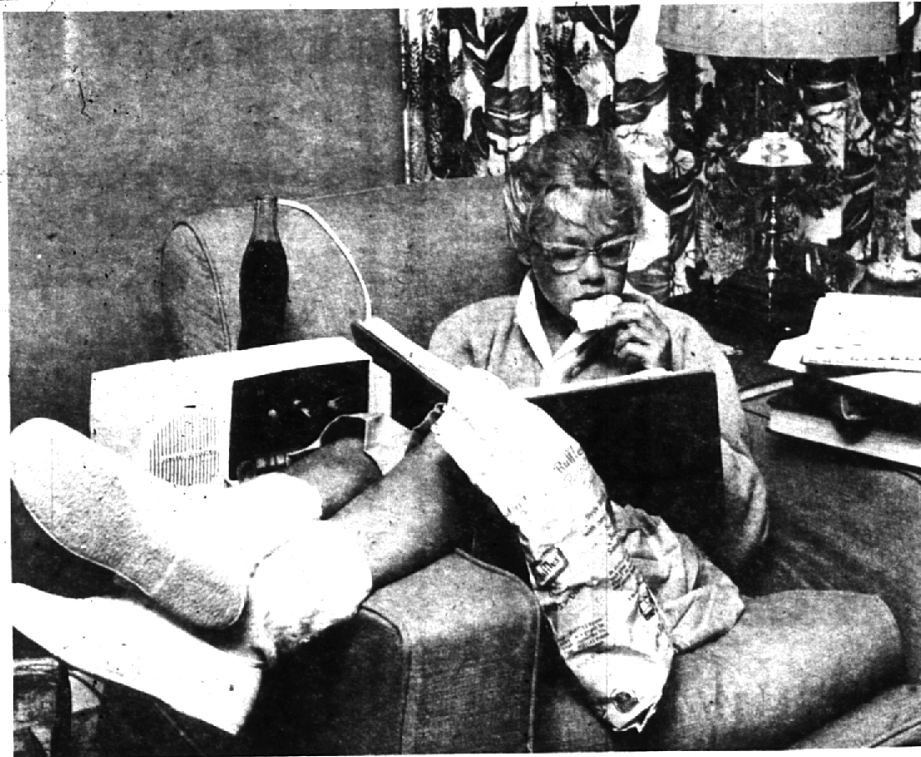


# The Birmingham Eccentric

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BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

## 'Back to School' Bells to Ring Soon



### 27,000 Ready To Start Back To Classrooms

By JULIE CANDLER  
Staff Writer

Most of the knowledge stored in books has stayed in the warehouse since June, but in a few weeks Birmingham area students once more will be hitting the books as schools re-open their doors.

A new high in enrollments of about 27,500 students will be poring over their textbooks after the first bells ring in the area's public, parochial and private schools.

In this special "Back to School" section of The Birmingham Eccentric, you'll find a volume of book-learning about the two new schools opening, new teachers, curriculum changes, where and when students should report back, and what they should wear when they do.

#### What's New

The textbooks will be supplemented this year by electronic devices in language laboratories which the Birmingham school system is innovating. Most schools will put more emphasis on mathematics, science and languages (see other stories in this section).

Also new this year are two school buildings. In Bloomfield Hills, James Conant elementary school opens its doors at Quarten and Wing Lake roads.

On Lahser road, Brother Rice high school for boys will go into use next month, with an estimated 250 students. They will be instructed by the Christian Brothers of Ireland, a group of whom arrived here this week to take over the new school adjacent to Marian high school for girls.

The two schools, along with St. Regis elementary school on the same Lahser road site near Lincoln, are operated by the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Detroit.

#### Enrollment Rises

Early estimates show area schools enrolling over 5,000 more students than the 22,000 who attended schools here last year.

The school population figures give the Birmingham school district the highest total of brains to educate. More than 12,000 students are enrolled.

Southfield schools expect 7,250 pupils, while the Bloomfield Hills school system has grown to more than 3,700.

ENROLLMENTS are climbing yearly in parochial as well as public schools. Holy Name, Roman Catholic parochial school on Harmon street, Birmingham, expects more than 1,000 pupils in its first through eighth grade classes.

Other parochial elementary schools and their enrollments are St. Columban, 340; St. Hugo, 500; St. Bede, 400, and St. Regis, 250. Marian high school is enrolling 425 this year. Our Shepherd Lutheran school on 14 Mile road, Birmingham, has over 200 pupils.

KINGSWOOD school Cranbrook's enrollment of 287 includes a majority of day students, while Cranbrook school for boys has 370 students, a majority of them boarding students.

Detroit Country Day school has enrolled 270 and Bloomfield Country Day school for girls expects 60 to register.

#### Opening Days

BIRMINGHAM — Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 6, with all elementary students reporting at 9 a. m. and Seaholm high school students at 8 a. m. Schedule for junior high schools lists Derby classes starting at 8:10 a. m., Barnum at 8:15 and (See CLASSROOMS, Page 2)

### Cramming Time Again

Teri Fournier, ninth grader at Derby junior high school, gets into the swing of studying again after a summer of sun and fun. More than 12,000 youngsters in the Birmingham area will do the same in a few short weeks. Teri, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fournier of Kennesaw, is an advocate of collegiate styles. She enjoys a casual short hair style. Her favorite classroom attire includes a color-

ful plaid pleated wool skirt (just below the knee length), a crisp white shirt blouse and a bulky-knit cardigan sweater in a color complementing the skirt. Tennis shoes (not too immaculate) and wool high-top socks are footwear rages. For a jaunt to the library, she will don a tailored blazer or kahki trench coat.

### Traveling Educators Make 386 Journeys, \$4,761 In Expenses

Birmingham school teachers and administrators were granted a total of 386 "authorizations for absence" to attend conferences and meetings during the 1959-60 school year.

The traveling educators turned in 218 expense accounts totaling \$4,761 for reimbursement from the school district. Reports on conferences were turned in to administrative officials by 128 individuals and groups of delegates.

Twenty-three of the meetings attended by local educators were in this area, 137 were outside this area but still in Michigan and 23 were out of state.

THE DELEGATES totaled 659 days of absence, and substitutes were required for 90 of these days.

### Records Donated To Schools

Records valued at \$200 to \$300 have been donated to the Birmingham schools by Mrs. John Abbott, 480 N. Glenhurst road.

School officials expressed appreciation for the 78 rpm collection of symphonies, operas and other classical works. They said some of the selections will be re-recorded on tape.

### Grade Schools Pass 98.5% of Students

Of the 7,341 elementary pupils in Birmingham public schools during the 1959-60 school year, 7,231 or 98.5 per cent achieved passing grades.

At the secondary level, 95.25 to 98.1 per cent of the students passed with Seaholm high school having the lowest percentage passing among the two high schools and two junior highs.

Seaholm had 11,888 pupils last year and 11,324 or 95.25 per cent passed while 564 failed.

GROVES SENIOR high, with 8,166 students, passed 7,990 or 97.8 per cent while 176 failed. Derby junior high (9,176 pupils) had 9,004 or 98.1 per cent pass while 172 failed.

Barnum junior high passed 4,588 pupils (97.9 per cent) out of 4,687 while 99 failed. Among the elementary schools, only Harlan with 466 pupils had 100 per cent of its students earn promotion.

LOWEST PERCENTAGE of promotions was at Baldwin where 433 out of 448 or 96.5 per cent passed while five were passed "on condition" and 11 failed.

Largest enrollment was at Adams (534 pupils) where 522 (97.8

per cent) passed, eight passed "on condition" and four failed. Smallest enrollment was 346 at Midvale where 340 passed (98.3 per cent) and six failed.

### To Offer Astronomy

A course in astronomy taught by William Schultz, Jr., of Cranbrook Institute, will be offered in the Birmingham schools' adult education program 8 p. m. to 10 p. m. Thursdays beginning Sept. 29.

### Paving Is Approved

Asphalt resurfacing for a part of the Barnum school drive and the driveway to the mechanics' shop at Seaholm at a total cost of \$2,591 has been carried out under authorization of the Birmingham board of education.

### B of E Relocates Two Departments

Due to cramped quarters at the board of education headquarters at Chester and Martin, two departments—child accounting and athletic director—have been moved to Baldwin school at Chester and Maple.

The child accounting department, under the direction of Mrs. William Dove, handles election and census details and maintains master records on children in the school district. The new office is in room 292 on the first floor.

Franklin Whitney, athletic director, and his department are now stationed in an office on the third floor.

### Keep This Guide

Keep this Back to School Section in a handy place. It will prove a good reference throughout the school year. Inside, you will find information pertaining to activities, enrollment procedures, teachers and administrators and buildings.