

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies provide the student with a better understanding of his responsibilities as a citizen in a democratic nation. His years in the primary grades permit him to study the "known" in his personal world: the home, school, neighborhood and commu-

nity. He gradually learns about the social, economic and political aspects of his own country and the other nations of the world. At the same time he studies geography — the environment in which man lives.

Curriculum

Elementary:

- Kindergarten—home and school
- 1st grade—school
- 2nd grade—community helpers
- 3rd grade—types of communities
- 4th grade—comparable community around the world (world geography)
- 5th grade—United States history and geography (also Canada and South America)
- 6th grade—Old world backgrounds

Secondary

- 7th grade—World Geography
- 8th grade—United States History
- 9th grade—Michigan History
- 10th grade—World History
- 11th grade—United States History (regular and honors)
 - Economics
 - International Relations
 - Civics
 - Sociology

Improvements

1961-62:

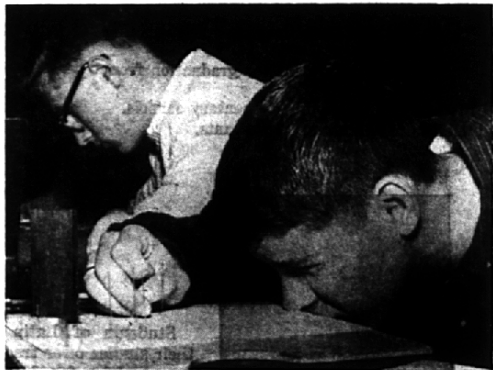
- An honors course in United States History, Grade 11
- Appointment of social studies department chairmen
- In-service geography course for elementary teachers
- Review of elementary textbook adoptions.

Needs

- Intensify study of geography in elementary grades.
- Review of ninth grade program. Should the present elective course be replaced by a required one?
- Development of additional honors course designed for those students who plan to major in history or political science.



Mock United Nations sessions are a yearly event that help students understand the structure of the United Nations. This session was sponsored by the Birmingham United Nations Association.



The students are plotting the rays of incidence and reflection on a plain mirror to prove the first law of reflection.

Improvements

1960-61:

- Greater emphasis on human and physical resources in the community
- Utilization of one room in the district as a science reference center
- Selective purchasing to improve elementary room and library reference materials
- Utilizing of team teaching in the upper elementary grades to improve learning
- Pilot study in biology for mature ninth grade students

1961-62:

- In-service work under new science coordinator for elementary and secondary teachers

- Procurement of portable laboratories tabled for elementary schools.
- Introduction of expanded elementary course of study
- Adoption of Physical Science Study Committee course in physics developed under the sponsorship of the National Science Foundation
- Termination of the pilot ninth grade biology projects and the offering of accelerated biology to ninth grade students.
- Advanced biology for twelfth grade students

- Employment of a coordinator of science to assist in program development at the elementary and secondary levels

Needs

Pilot study of a course in descriptive chemistry for students who have weak mathematics backgrounds.

- Greater utilization of community resources including use of such natural areas as the Rouge River wooded area
- Additional time to schedule longer or more frequent laboratory periods at the secondary level

- Courses in science for the student not planning to attend college
- Extensive and intensive in-service work to help teachers keep abreast of the rapidly changing field of science
- Revision of the junior high school general science sequence
- Advanced courses in chemistry and physics

SCIENCE

Probably no area of the curriculum offers greater challenge to teachers in the public schools than science. Historically, science was the last area to be incorporated into the public school program. As such, it has recently found its place as a subject studied at all grade levels. Both the natural and the physical sciences are studied in Birmingham.

Curriculum

Elementary:

Units on the natural and physical science are taught at each grade level. Considerable emphasis is given to the environment in which the child lives as the motivating force for the study of scientific concepts.

Secondary:

- General Science, Grades 7, 8 and 9
- Biology (regular and accelerated courses)
- Advanced Biology (honors course)
- Chemistry
- Physical Science
- Physics (general and college preparatory)



Encouraging children to keep the science table stocked is the first step toward a study of the child's immediate environment.