

INSTRUCTIONObjectives of the Instructional ProgramPhilosophy¹

Our belief in democracy rests upon the concept that an excellent educational system will go far in providing liberally educated citizens necessary to a democracy which must function in a rapidly changing world. Such a system, stemming from the democratic doctrine of equality of educational opportunity, must be founded on a plan of basic general education for all. Yet its ultimate goal is to provide for all youths fulfillment of their varying capabilities. Our educational system must, therefore, be equipped to discover the talents and abilities of our youth, to stimulate them, and to nurture them to their utmost potential.

In providing a sound program of general education basic to the common well-being of all, our schools must teach youth the fundamental competencies of American citizenship and must prepare them for vocational effectiveness. We must educate our youth to understand themselves both physically and psychologically, and we must develop in them the ability to get along with others. We must stimulate them to intellectual curiosity, and sharpen the skills by which they may satisfy it. Our young people must gain a knowledge of their natural environment, of the laws of science, and of man's use of these phenomena. They need to acquire habits of profitable use of leisure. We must foster in them a reasonable knowledge and appreciation of our cultural heritage, in all its social and aesthetic aspects. Finally, our schools must instill in our youth a stout, yet delicate, sensitivity to moral and ethical values.

We maintain that each individual has worth and the inherent ability to make a contribution to society. Therefore, we must prepare the student for a life-long struggle to maintain his individuality in a world characterized by an increasing complexity of organization. We must develop within him the knowledge, motivation, and moral character to form his own judgments and make his own decisions. At the same time, our schools must develop within him the capability of serving effectively as an active and creative member of a group without compromising his integrity as an individual.

¹ Adapted from *A Blueprint for the '60's*, Baltimore County Public Schools, 1960, pp.

We face the task of attempting to prepare students for a life in a kind of world no one can completely visualize or predict. We must educate our youth to live in a world where the best alternative to actual violence which men have yet been able to devise is the relatively peaceful but aggressively competitive coexistence of two contradictory ideologies. However, the exigencies of the world situation should not mislead the schools into lowering their educational goals by advocating blind, unquestioning acceptance of a stated set of political and social philosophies. Rather, our educational system must place high on the list of essentials for survival the development within our students of those qualities of self-discipline and social responsibility that alone will keep men free.

Education Goals²

1. Develop intellectual and academic competence.
2. Develop and maintain sound mental and physical health.
3. Develop moral, ethical, and spiritual values.
4. Develop effective membership in the family.
5. Develop responsible citizenship.
6. Develop an appreciation for other cultures.
7. Develop economic and vocational competence.
8. Develop a growing appreciation of beauty.
9. Develop leisure time interests.
10. Develop adaptability to change.

The Pupil

The Board of Education desires that all persons associated with the schools of Baltimore County be constantly aware that all aspects of the educational program and its supporting structure should have one purpose: the welfare of the boys and girls who attend our

²*Ibid*, pp. 28-31

schools. Our schools must serve all the children of all people. To do less is to do injustice that will result in the school's failure to fulfill its mission.

The child's experiences at school and elsewhere should tend to make him a happy and useful citizen, not only ultimately but here and now. This goal implies that these experiences must be suited to the interests, needs, and abilities of each individual pupil and be selected in consideration of his physical, mental, social, and emotional development. Furthermore, the child must enter into the selection of these experiences both directly and indirectly.

A school program which respects the dignity and worth of each individual will not fail in its duty. Those privileged to work with boys and girls need only be guided by a limited number of fundamental principles in order to realize worthy educational objectives. Stated concisely these are:

1. In all aspects of development each individual differs from the others.
2. The more nearly the learning situation resembles the life situation, the more effective will be the learning.
3. Interests and experiences are mutually interactive.
4. Growth is characterized by the unfolding of the whole individual rather than by the independent development of individual parts.
5. As learning is taking place, attitudes toward learning are being formed.

The Teacher

All members of the staff work together to promote the welfare of pupils. In the final analysis, however, the effectiveness of the educational program is determined by the degree to which the teacher as an individual can sense and minister to the needs, interests, and abilities of the children with whom he works. The Board of Education, therefore, considers the teacher the key personality contributing to the success of the boys and girls in the schools of Baltimore County. Recognizing that only a mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and mature individual can function with maximum effectiveness, the Board of Education will make every effort to provide for the teacher an optimum teaching environment, adequate compensation to maintain a status worthy of a professional person, and opportunities for renewal of professional spirit and for rest and relaxation.

Rule
Approved: 11/21/68]

Superintendent of Schools