

'To Play, Sing, Eat and Dance Together'

"Our theme is togetherness; to play, sing, eat, dance together, to understand the whys of different cultures, and learn not to judge but to respect others for what they do," said Mrs. Florence Dixon in introducing a Black Studies course to her students.

Mrs. Dixon's course is part of this year's Martin Luther King summer program at St. Francis Xavier School on Bay Street.

The program is part of the national Summer Youth Opportunity Program and receives \$12,000 from the Office of Human Development.

Remedial reading, English

for Spanish-speaking children, Spanish for English-speaking children, arts and crafts, cooking, a practical science course put on by the University of Rochester's school of preventive medicine, and Afro-American history for black as well as white students are being offered.

The program is open to all the neighborhood children from grades 3 to 7. About 85 children are registered.

Sister Kathleen Kohl, principal of St. Francis, also was happy to announce a first grade-readiness program for the summer. "Our school hasn't any

kindergarten, which we desperately need," she said. "This will give us a chance to prepare the children for first grade, and also give a learning disabilities test so we will be able to place them properly."

The staff consists of 18 professional teachers, four neighborhood mothers and 12 neighborhood high school girls who aid the teachers in the classroom.

"You couldn't ask for more ideal learning conditions," Sister Kathleen said, "than three teachers in every class of eight or so students."

Some of the teachers were

able to get Model City grants for educational toys and other teaching materials.

John Buckland, who is teaching English to the third graders, uses a "tele-trainer" donated by the Rochester telephone Co. to teach his students not only to use the telephone, but to speak in complete sentences.

Classes run from 9 a.m. until noon, Monday through Friday.

Some people have donated the use of their private pools enabling organization of an afternoon swimming program. Two nuns on the staff who are licensed Red Cross instructors

hold swimming classes twice a week.

Afternoon field trips are planned to Fantasy Island, Letchworth Park, a dairy farm, and Webster Park. Funds for these also are provided by the Summer Youth Opportunity Program.

Rochester's answer to the Pied Piper is Nan Wooden. She is the "story lady" who appears at different neighborhood parks daily, Monday through Thursday, 1:30-4 p.m. to tell stories and organize games.

The Martin Luther King Summer Program began July 5 and will end Aug. 6.



Sister Dorothy Cooney teaches letter pronunciation to Jody Maraffino, Anna Celeca, Joann Andrese and Mary Inqualato.



Edgar Miller prepares to become better acquainted with the alphabet by using his crayon and a special coloring book in the Reading Readiness program.



Sister Kathleen Kohl, principal of St. Francis Xavier's summer school, discusses her thoughts on it.