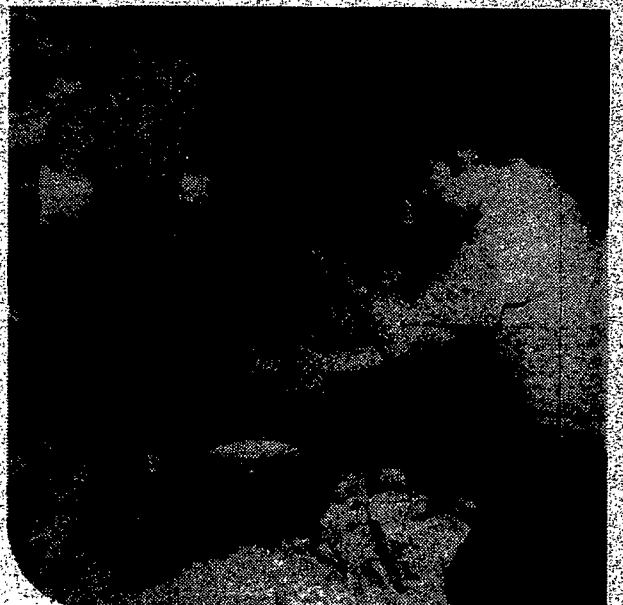


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St. Mary's school in Canandaigua has a varied academic and arts curriculum which combined with Christian teachings gives students a diversified education. At left, Tim McMahon receives instruction from Sister Teresa Singer. Below, left: Tim Morey and Billy Houle begin a paper mache art project while at right, Mrs. Jacqueline Redrupp, a parents volunteer, teaches a mini-course in knitting to fifth graders Debbie Myle, Sheila Farnsworth, and Ann Doran.



## Plank Writers Heard CEF Voucher Plea

**Kansas City, Mo. [RNS]** — Two officials of Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF), an organization which supports parental rights in education, called on the Republican Party's Platform Committee last week to endorse educational vouchers that will give parents a choice in school selection for the children. (As of press time, the platform had not been finished.)

Mrs. E. Babette Edwards, president of the Harlem Parents Union in New York City and a member of CEF's national board of trustees, charged that "blacks and Hispanics are the victims, not the beneficiaries, of New York City's public schools."

One of the parents in eight families who have withdrawn 12 children from public schools after appealing to the New York State Regents for vouchers "to pay for effective education," she presented a list of indictments against New York City schools. She said they all amount to the schools' failure to provide adequate education for blacks and Hispanics.

Mrs. Edwards was joined in her testimony by Mrs. Marilyn Lundy of Detroit, CEF Secretary and a member of the Save Detroit Committee. Mrs. Lundy urged the committee to support the "primary rights" of parents in education.

## Grown-up education

Interest in adult education is greater than ever, and more men and women are back in school today than ever before. Some are taking courses to enhance a hobby or personal interest, while others want to learn more for job advancement.

Most communities have adult education programs and most of the larger colleges and universities offer night school courses with open enrollment.

The cost of the courses may vary, but there are many adult education pro-

grams which may run as little as \$25 for one-hour or two-hour classes once a week.

And the variety of the courses offered is tremendous — everything from accounting, literature and the arts to photography, dance, and astrology.

While most of these courses offer no credit towards a degree, they are nevertheless enriching and a tremendous opportunity to get out and do something different that is bound to have positive results.

# Elementary Schools Open With Diversified Programs

With the opening of schools on Sept. 8, diocesan elementary schools will go into full swing with many innovative and varied programs which will give those attending Catholic schools a well-rounded education in academics and Christian teachings.

Immaculate Conception elementary school in Ithaca looks forward to the new school year with eagerness. In a city famous for its many forms of education, from Cornell University to Ithaca College to 13 public elementary schools, Immaculate Conception has the privilege of offering the only Catholic alternative.

It is a challenge to keep up with the diversity of educational settings in the city schools and to also offer that added touch, the living out of the message of Christ. With this uniqueness in mind the school has opened a chapel and plans to offer opportunities for religious experience — class Masses, new rite of Penance and prayer services.

For many years the school has been grouping the students in reading and has also extended this level system to Math. For the first time, this year, the school will program a class period of levels for grades 3-6. A special Reading-Math teacher will make it possible to teach more students on their ability levels.

Through the cooperation of the Ithaca College Music Department there will be a program of classroom music. Students also will be given the opportunity to express themselves in all forms of art including ceramics.

Fourth and fifth graders will continue to study French while a group of junior high students will take ninth grade French.

The Pupil Study Team will take on new depth this year as the school psychologist, nurse-teacher, speech therapist, and support teacher aide take referrals from the classroom teachers, conduct studies, and make recommendations to teachers and parents. The aim is to open the

door that may be blocking some of the students' progress.

St. Philip Neri School in the Northeastern section of the city of Rochester was originally founded as a parish to serve the needs of a predominately Italian neighborhood. The church and school now find themselves serving the needs of a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural community.

The school is staffed by three Sisters of Notre Dame and seven lay teachers. In addition to the classroom teachers, the personnel of the school includes the parish priests, a school nurse, physical education instructor, speech therapist, psychologist and a social worker.

Through the philosophy of St. Philip Neri School, the faculty sees the school as an agency through which the intellectual, moral, social, religious and physical power and values are fostered and developed in each individual child.

In September, the school will begin new programs which will stimulate and encourage the youngsters to "bigger and better undertakings."

To increase reading, for both information and pleasure there will be initiated a special reading time, of 10 minutes each day, for every person working in the building. Also, through the services of a full time para-professional and teacher-aides, a program will begin for continuous progress in the Primary Unit.

The development of a sense of community among the faculty, students, parents, and parishioners is fostered during the year through a variety of events like Career Day, liturgical celebrations, and the Children's Festival.

A Home School Association is being initiated which will encourage a greater flow of understanding, cooperation and communication. A meeting of parents and faculty will be held on Sept. 1 to introduce association officers as well as allow the parents

and teachers to share the expectations of the coming year.

A special feature of St. Salome's School in Rochester is the unique concern for the spread of Christian principles under the leadership and example of the pastor, Father Conrad Sundholm. Evidence that this same love and concern spread to all who contact the children is visible in the happy students and their faculty.

Educational programs inclusive of Pre-school through Junior High meet the needs of children from ages 3 through 14.

The pre-school program of learning through play addresses itself to physical fitness and semi-structured learning. The child in today's busy world of "contentment by television" needs direction in social behavior and aid in physical development. The pre-school program is designed to meet these goals for the little people and to initiate the learning experience as a happy one.

A correlated program of diocesan and New York State curriculum provides a well rounded and broadened view of specifics to be learned. Religion and sacramental programs and the implementation of Christian values and principles play a large part in the students' day.

A child interested in physical development can find gym classes and extra curricular activities at St. Salome's. Basketball, floor hockey, cheerleading, and music are part of the in-school and extra curricular events.

Every teacher is reminded that a child comes to a new school year with hopes, dreams and anticipation. One of the most important responsibilities then, for faculties, is to provide a fresh and challenging beginning for each student. It is this challenge that the faculty of St. Salome's accepts for the 1976-77 school year.

Three features which contribute to making St. Mary's School Canandaigua, special are: its creativity in planning, its parent involvement, and its "spirit."

The school programs are planned to be flexible enough to give individual attention to students needing remedial help as well as those working a year ahead of their grade in a particular subject. Creative planning provides for multi-age activities where students of different levels plan and participate together in liturgies, sports, and drama. Older students are sometimes the instructors for younger ones in math and religion.

A new program for September which reflects this creative approach is the junior high reading program. The plan has received a grant from New York State and is called "Mixed Ability Reading Teams." It proposes to raise the grade level in reading of the lowest 10 per cent of the students by two years in one year and to increase

the motivation, speed, and comprehension of all the students. Small teams of six students with varied abilities will work together to help each other progress.

Parent involvement at St. Mary's is a strong influence on the school's success. Many parents volunteer a half day or more each week to working as classroom aides, mini-course teachers, coaches, library clerks, or playground supervisors. Still more parents assist the school in fund raising through the projects of the Home-School Association.

The creativity of the staff and the involvement of the parents help the spirit of St. Mary's to grow. Children are aware of their Christian community. They are enjoying a happy learning atmosphere, growing in their concern for each other and their fellow man.

