



# EXPRESSLY ELEMENTARY



## Software at St. Lawrence

Students began using computers at St. Lawrence School in January. Computer instructor, Sharon Krause, also began sifting through many catalogs, searching for appropriate software. What confusion! Descriptions were inadequate and many were cost-prohibitive.

After a great deal of deliberation, the selection process began. Concentration was placed on math and language arts software selections and it was decided that Logo, a computer language, would be taught at the intermediate grade levels. In addition, BASIC would be taught to junior high students.

All classes were exposed to the computers. Beginning with K-3, the little folks listened to short discussions

on computer care and what components make up the system. They were also shown software dealing with numbers, including math drills, and the alphabet. BOCES offers many programs such as learning prefixes, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division drills at very reasonable prices. A Xerox production, "Stickybear's ABCs," teaches the alphabet with color, sound and motion graphics.

"Rocky's Boots" explains how computers work, specifically the various logic circuits.

"The Factory" is a angle, shape and design-oriented program. It makes planning a fun exercise.

## At Christ the King...

The new school year is met with an additional program at Christ the King School. During this past summer, a computer center was constructed. The center will be in operation with nine computers on which all students in grades K-8 will gain computer literacy. In addition, students in the junior high will be instructed in the basics of computer programming.

## St. Rita's, Webster Joins Computer Age

St. Rita's School in Webster has joined the Computer Age in a dynamic way. The elementary school has a full-time teacher, Mrs. Jean McBrien, who is in the process of introducing teachers, students, and even parents to the use of computers.

Conceived in the 1982-83 school year under the direction of former principal, Sister Rita Heberle, and implemented with the guidance of present principal, Sister Katherine Ann Rappl, the program was ready to go in September, 1983.

At the present time the computer program at St. Rita's encompasses students in grades 1 through 8. The curriculum includes both Computer Awareness and "hands-on" computer time, with varying emphasis throughout the grades. Computer Awareness (also known as computer literacy) covers a variety of topics including the history of computers, components and

operation of computers, future technology, and the place and effects of technology in our world today.

As part of the "hands-on" experience with computers, students in the earlier grades have used the computers to strengthen math and reading skills. In the intermediate (4-6) and junior high grades, youngsters have been learning how to operate the computer and have also been introduced to programming using both BASIC and the Logo programming languages. Both computer languages are widely accepted in schools today.

Parents are a key ingredient in St. Rita's program and workshops have been held through the year in their behalf. In exchange for donating their time to the school as a computer volunteer, parents have been given an introductory six-week course on personal computer by Mrs. McBrien.

## Diocesan Teachers Train

Ten diocesan teachers went back to school for two weeks during July. They were participants in the Computers for Elementary School Teachers program at Nazareth Academy High School.

Over the two-week period, the ten learned about the history and technology of computers, the use of computers in the classroom, and programming in the BASIC language.

After three hours of lecture and demonstration -- given each day by course instructors Sister Ann Xavier, SSJ, and Sister Sheila Marie Miller, SSJ -- the participants then spent several hours doing "hands-on" computer work.

## St. Andrew's School Adds Computer Program

While other children were playing baseball or heading off to Darien Lake this summer, many of the students at St. Andrew School were busy learning how to program computers.

In a program set up by Mary Segerson, the school's computer education coordinator, the students could choose from three different levels of instruction -- BASIC, Logo, or Intermediate BASIC.

Using BASIC -- Beginners'

## St. Cecilia Readies Program

St. Cecilia's School is ready to have its students become computer literate.

The school has a full size classroom devoted to this project, which is equipped with eight Atari 800 computers with color monitors and disk drives, and two printers.

The classroom is also set up with student desks and an overhead projector so that some students can be experiencing "hands-on" at the computers while others are having a "teacher-presented" lesson or doing written or reading lessons at their desk.

Each class (K-8) is assigned one class period per week in the computer room. Mrs. Gayle Culhane, computer coordinator, who is at the school on Thursdays, meets with grades 4-8. The students in grades K-3 meet with Mrs. Alberta DiMarco, assistant to the coordinator.

Regular volunteers are also working in the computer room with each of the classes. Times are also made available for the teachers to bring their classes to the computer room.

Many areas are being covered in our new computer program -- CAI, Computer Literacy and Programming.

CAI (Computer Aided Instruction) makes use of the software in the fields of math, language arts, spelling, reading, social studies and science.

In Computer Literacy, the students learn the parts of the computer, how to take care of it, how it works, how it developed, its history and how computers are used in today's world.

## Committee Organizes Computer Curriculum

A committee of nine elementary teachers and computer coordinators, under the direction of Sister Janice Morgan, assistant superintendent of curriculum, has written a computer literacy curriculum for grades K-8 to be used in all 75 diocesan elementary schools.

The curriculum, which will be presented to computer coordinators and teachers in October, was written using general but comprehensive objectives allowing it to be easily adapted to the rapid changes that occur in computer technology.

Seven essential strands

are covered in the curriculum: components and operation; history and technology; programming; applications and social impact; careers; moral issues; and terminology. These strands ensure that every diocesan student will be exposed to a broad base of computer related skills.

In addition to Sister Janice, other members of the committee are Eileen Malloy Desormeaux, Janet Genthner, Sharon Krause, Jean McBrien, Sister Sheila Marie Miller, Carol Saum, Mary Segerson, Patricia Sykes and Kathy Taylor.

## Using Computers In Primary Grades

By Janet Genthner

I can't count how many times I have had volunteers, teachers and other adults tell me that they are afraid of computers. Their fear is genuine! But ask any child in kindergarten at St. John the Evangelist School on Humboldt Street if they are afraid to try. "No way" is the common response. More than likely the only complaint heard from these children is that they can't use the computers as often as they would like.

It is becoming very evident in our computer center at school that children in the primary grades can hardly contain their enthusiasm to use the computer. They are beginning to see the computer as a tool to have more fun with and to learn with. It seems to be a natural development -- the more comfortable a child is around a computer, the more he will learn.

The kindergarten child can practice letter and number recognition skills in many different ways with software that is available. By choosing a correct response on the computer keyboard the child may hear a pleasant sound,

see flashing colors, add a car to a train or make a caterpillar grow. The students in grades 1-3 use computer time to reinforce their newly learned math and reading skills. A big plus in computer-assisted learning is the ability to choose the level of difficulty at which a child works. Some may need remedial work, others reinforcement of the classroom lesson while still others are ready to forge ahead to something a bit more difficult. Each child can work at a program specifically suited to his or her needs.

In the process of using the computer, children are also learning many basic commands and are becoming very familiar with the computer keyboard. Correct terminology is always encouraged in discussing the parts and functions of the computer. Children are also made aware of how computers are used in society -- at supermarkets, hospitals and banks.

A good, solid foundation of computer awareness in the primary grades set the stage for the development of programming skills at the intermediate and junior high levels.

## Using Computers In Classrooms Today


Computers have a place in every classroom today. They are being integrated into regular curriculums and not treated as a separate topic. Making students computer literate has to include using the machines as the tools they are intended to be. Educators are discovering many ways to accomplish this effort.

Every subject taught can benefit from employing the computer as a teaching aid. Drill and practice programs, individual tutorial programs, educational and simulation games are available for many levels in most subjects. This is where computers are presently being used the most. Students enjoy using and learning from these types of programs.

The computer is also an excellent tool to help students with writing. Using a computer word processing program to write, revise, and edit has improved student writing skills in many situations. This use can be implemented in many subjects.

Another computer application which works well in many subjects is the use of information storage and retrieval programs. Managing facts with the help of computers helps students with research and logical relationships.

More and more teachers are finding these and other methods useful as they become increasingly aware of the advantages of computer use in their classrooms. The results of continued efforts in this direction will be students and teachers sharing the benefits of the computer age.



### A Parent's View

By Jean Gilbert  
President  
Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents

Who is your school "liaison"? What are their responsibilities?

The primary function of the federation is communication. We have set up a network of "liaisons" to help us do exactly that. When we have news to get out to you, the parents, we send the bulletin to our "liaisons" and then it is their responsibility to have it copied and sent home with each child.

Occasionally we will call upon our "liaisons" to serve on diocesan committees. They are a critical link in our network. We are trying very hard to keep all our links connected.

If your school is a "missing link" and you are not getting any federation news, give us a call at 225-2714. We will be happy to help reconnect you. Stay tuned -- we have some exciting things coming your way soon. Watch for your newsletters!