

Catholic Courier

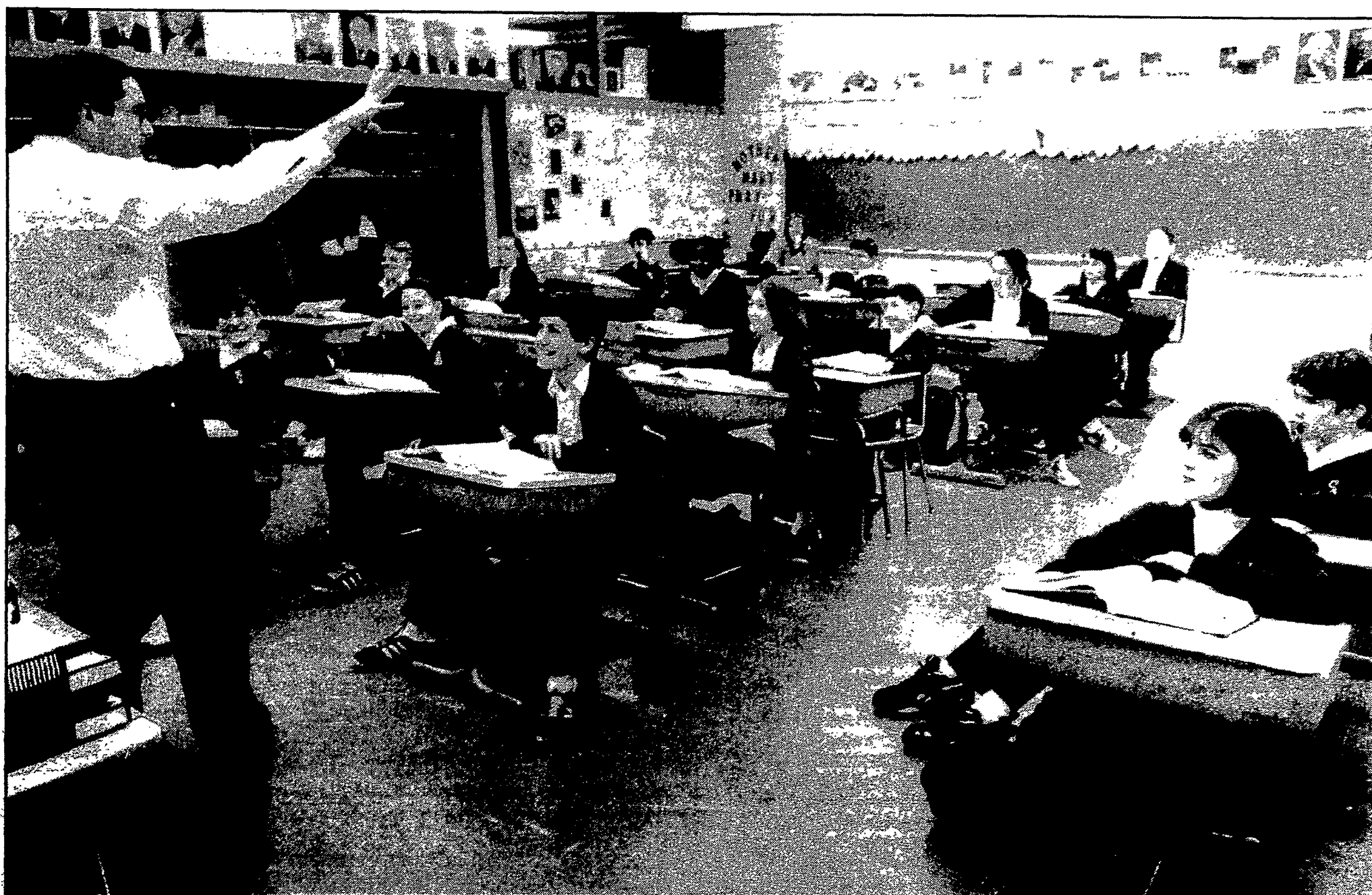
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Steve Schockow (left), Siena Catholic Academy's principal, teaches a social studies class during a recent school day at the southeast quadrant junior high school located at St. Thomas More Parish, 2617 East Ave., Rochester.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Junior highs bridging promise of childhood, high-school demands

Caroline Curtin, a senior at Elmira's Notre Dame High School, considers her years at Holy Family Junior High priceless.

"Junior high was one of the best experiences I can say I've ever had," Curtin said.

She added that the Tier junior-high school helped her enormously in moving from childhood to adolescence.

"You really learned how to shape your goals," she said, noting that "it was at that point in my life that I started to do time-management skills."

Not only did Curtin learn how and why to adhere to a strict schedule combining work and play, she also found herself in seventh and in eighth grade maturing in other ways.

She learned to love learning for its own sake, and not just because diligent study could get her good grades, she explained, and she came to know to deal with numer-

ous adults and students on a daily basis.

Principals and teachers at the diocese's four centralized junior highs want every student to graduate feeling about their school years the way Curtin does about Holy Family, which serves several neighboring parishes — including some in Pennsylvania.

Monroe County is home to the diocese's other three junior highs: Northeastern Catholic Junior High, which serves the northeast quadrant; Siena Catholic Academy, which serves the southeast quadrant; and All Saints Catholic Junior High, which serves the southwest quadrant.

Centralized junior highs concentrate the financial resources of several parishes and parents in a given area into one school designed to serve all the contributing parishes' children.

In addition to consolidating funds, junior highs are designed to prepare students for their high-school years by offering them a more varied academic and extra-curricular activity schedule than that of their former elementary schools.

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Siena Catholic Academy student Kelly Schneider enthusiastically raises her hand during first-period religion class.

Story by Rob Cullivan, Staff Writer