

## Musical Instruction, Formerly For Gifted, Now for the Millions

Seven and a half million youngsters will join grade and high school bands, orchestras and music classes with the opening of the school year, it is estimated by the American Music Conference.

At pre-school and primary levels almost 100 per cent of the school children in the United States are now introduced to some form of simple music, generally group singing.

About 90 per cent of the primary grade children learn the fundamentals of rhythm and simple melody with rhythm instruments and pre-band melody instruments. Tambourines, drums, castanets, triangles and sticks enable the little children to beat out rhythmic patterns. The addition of simple melody instruments, such as small guitars and harps, help these very young children to understand and love music.

The rapid growth of music as a fundamental part of grade school curriculums is probably due to the interest gained through class instruction. Dr. John C. Kendel, vice president of AMC, believes.

Only two years ago, group lessons in piano alone were established in more than 600 school systems, guided by the demonstrations of a piano workshop instituted by the AMC and presented in 38 states and the District of Columbia.

Similar systems of group teaching have stimulated growing interest in band instruments and strings. Even first



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## Girl Going Away To College Must Make Plans Now

There's a challenge to the foresight of the college bound girl in the fact that she must start planning now, for the life on the campus where she must fit herself into a circle of new friends.

College catalogues and talks with friends attending the chosen school can be her basic guides. The former will list dress rules: whether shorts, for example, are allowed on the campus; whether stockings are required in dining halls; what dorm furnishings and linens she's going to need.

The college bound girl armed with this basic information will find it easier to stretch her going-away budget, and with the help of well informed clerks in hometown stores, can shop with confidence at home for fashions and accessories that will fit properly into her coming life away from home.

graders learn in groups to play small-sized violins, violas and cellos.

Years ago youngsters who were "without musical talent" were just out of luck when it came to participation in musical activities aside from singing. Music was offered only to gifted children.

Today, our schools start everyone on the fundamentals of music at the kindergarten level and instrumental instruction is given to anyone who shows an interest in learning.

The National Education Association lists seven phases of a child's education. Music plays a prominent part in all of them: health, command of the fundamental processes (well-being and accomplishment), vacation, worthy home membership, worthy use of leisure, better citizenship and ethical character.

## Classics Claim Co-ed's Favor

By VIRGINIA SHAW

Assistant Fashion Editor, Parents' Magazine

This fall the well dressed coed will favor the classic in school wardrobes. In the fashion world classics, fabrics such as clan plaids, flannels, chinchillas are noteworthy, with novelty styling giving them a new 1955 personality.

Nothing looks better on the campus than well tailored clothes that reflect the best in fashion apparel.

Smart girls learn to distinguish between the flashy and the long term investments. This year they will find more style in good-for-a-long-time fabrics interpreted in flattering, feminine clothes.

Most exciting and most colorful are the clan plaids, restated in everything from dresses to sportswear to coats. Black Watch (the all-time favorite) is handsome in a chinchilla coat, cut straight and cropped finger-tip length for the newest silhouette. Combined with it, a Black Watch skirt to emphasize the importance of the ensemble this fall. To Black Watch plaid, add a gay gold cotton long sleeve shirt for early fall; later promote delicate contrast with a soft blue cashmere sweater.

Skirts for After Class. Killie skirts are as inevitable as bagpipes when clan plaids are popular, but in addition, the plaids will be interpreted in the newest long torso skirt that is gaining widespread acceptance. With the long torso, a matching plaid overblouse, loose at the waist, snug at the hips, with collar and cuffs of becoming lace-edged white linen.

Knee-length shorts, of course, will be added for after-school wear. You may already have a solid grey flannel pair, so try a pair in one of the dark muted plaids if you're conservative; one of the clear bright plaids if you like sparkle and if you prefer slim hips and legs.

Look for the charm of 1955

land with the smart styling of America. Fraser Hunting, Dress Stewart, MacDuff and all the others are yours in the new long torso skirts, loose overblouse, straight-line jackets with low placed half belts, and knee-length shorts. These are the new translations given the classics.

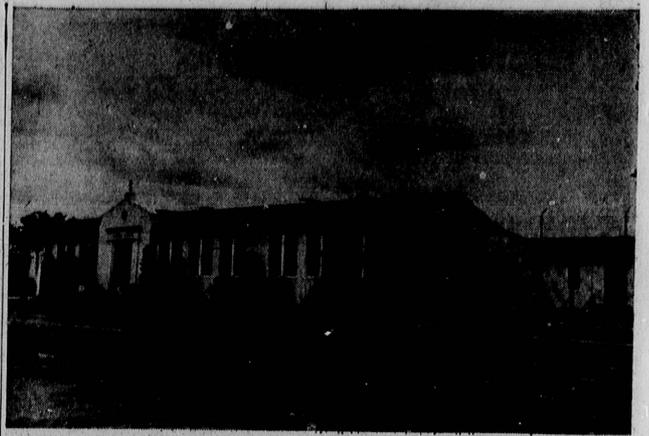
Flannel has always been a favorite in back-to-school wardrobes, and it will remain so. But this year it's color that makes it a new subject. Charcoal brown is the color and will be voted most likely to succeed by both college and high school students. It's the close relation to charcoal grey (your favorite last year) the park brown brushed with black. It blends beautifully with all of your high shades in sweaters and blouses, looks particularly smart when trimmed with black braid.

New Changed Silhouette. Charcoal brown is perfect for the 1955 jumper, and certainly you will want another jumper this year. They promise to continue their success but have a new changed silhouette.

This year's jumper does not look like last year's. The new version is cut higher at the neck, probably square, and has the long torso line that bursts into a soft full skirt.

Flannel is perfect for all your beloved separates, from skirts with the new controlled fullness to arrow straight lines, from loose middylake jackets to short waist-length styles with large collars. The look generally is straight up and down, and fullness when it appears is gently suggested.

Sweaters are a classic in every girl's clothes collection but the new sweaters have true new value. Following the trend of the loose overblouse, the sweaters this fall fit loosely over the skirt, and in a long line below the hips. The tone-



(Herald Photo) NATIVITY SCHOOL—Serving Catholic youngsters in the Nativity Parish is the Nativity Elementary School, located at 331 W. Carson St. Although pupils are only through the eighth grade, a new Catholic High School is planned in the future. It will be located on Torrance Blvd., on the Torrance-Redondo boundary.

## Shortage of Classrooms Cited To Point Up Needs of Schools

By GEORGE J. HECHT  
President and Publisher of Parents' Magazine

As our children face another year of classroom studies we must once again assess our school situation. There has been some improvement on a local level, but when we look at the picture as a whole, we cannot help being appalled!

on-tone outfit is making color coordination one of the important ideas for classroom fashion.

Sweaters Should Match. Your sweater this year should match your skirt and you will find innumerable choices of colors and matches in both shetland and flannel skirtings to go with wool, orlon or any of the synthetic sweaters. Decorate sweaters have trim to match skirts, blouse-like sweaters have collars, cuffs to lend feminine delicacy.

In spite of a large school building program in many localities, children are still going to school in fire-traps, basements, and shacks. They are being taught in overcrowded classrooms or in double or triple sessions.

In every section of the country the situation is critical, and the shortage is becoming more acute for the high school age children than for those of elementary school age. Surely these conditions are being reflected in the rising tide of juvenile delinquency.

Here are the strongest of the world powers. Other nations look to us for leadership, for intellectual and financial help. We must prepare our children to assume such leadership; to become enlightened citizens of a democracy and of a complex world. How can we educate them for the responsibilities that lie ahead if we refuse to build enough classrooms or provide enough teachers?

In his Los Angeles campaign speech Oct. 9, 1952, President Eisenhower said: "In this critical problem of adequate education, we must now undertake to help needy states build schools." In the President's promise lies the answer to our classroom shortage.

Many of the 70,000 school districts of the country are straining their resources to the limit right now, but they still cannot keep abreast of the problem. We are falling behind at the rate of 87,000 classrooms every year! Help from the Federal Government is the only way to give our children the first-class education that the future wel-

fare of this country demands.

The Federal Government cannot provide enough funds to build all the classrooms needed, but Federal aid such as that provided in bills now before Congress would stimulate communities to raise the money necessary to match the aid from the government.

It will bring about a faster school building program all over the country, much as the Hill-Burton Act resulted in an accelerated building of needed hospitals. When Federal money goes into a community to help construct a building it should free a certain amount of local money which School Boards can use to hire more teachers and improve other parts of the program.

The fact that 340,000 classrooms are needed right now to meet the present shortage should be reason enough for the quick passage of school construction legislation.

Even if you are one of the fortunate parents whose children go to school in a community where the educational facilities are adequate, you cannot refrain from looking at the national picture and making your voice heard.

How safe is the future of our country if only the few are well-educated?

**THE TRENDS**  
The tie news is mostly a color story. While regimental stripes will hold their strongly entrenched position on the campus scene, interesting new colors and color combinations will be seen. For example, a fresh handling of olive greens with blue, black, yellow, red or white.

**RIGHT IN THE RAIN**  
Trench coats will make a strong bid for top honors in campus rainwear, this year. Cotton pima and Dacron-cotton are outstanding fabrics; ivory the leading shade.

# BACK TO School

First to the Gay Shop... then back to school. The Dress by Sue Mason Jr., is made of Batés Discipline "Baton" Print

The Birdseye pique collar inset front, and a long torso, full skirt with tiny back bow, is just ideal for back to school.

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Pictured above, wearing this clever dress, is Marjorie Osterloh of North High, Torrance.

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