

Pushbutton Classroom Makes Debut This Fall

Pushbutton classrooms will make their debut in Torrance this fall when a newly completed classroom building at West High School goes into use. Operable walls will roll in and out of place at the touch of a finger. One large class will be able to convert into two or three smaller classes at the discretion of the instructor. Purpose of the pushbutton walls is to make the same floor space do double-duty depending on need at a particular hour.

New thinking about buildings has resulted in another first for West this fall—the school within a school. When the new classroom building opens it will function on its own. Students in the building won't find themselves shuttling from building to building every time the bell rings. Instead, they will remain in the building.

The "SCHOOL within a school" will have its own cafeteria. Students will stay in the same building for most of their classes and retain the same class advisor from freshman through senior year. Purpose of the new approach is to permit students and teachers to become better acquainted, providing the advantages of a small school with the framework of a large one.

School buildings aren't the only place where new things will be happening in the Torrance district this fall. There will be some changes made in classroom teaching as well.

For several years educators have recognized that the accumulation of knowledge is increasing so fast that teachers cannot teach—nor students learn—all the facts that there are to know in a given area. The explosion of knowledge has particularly made its impact felt in mathematics and science.

AS A RESULT of a workshop conducted for Torrance teachers and principals this summer, a new framework for teaching science is being planned. Subject matter will

be taught so that students will understand the theory behind the fact. Basic concepts will be emphasized, with samplings of some of the new knowledge used to point up the basic concepts.

Torrance teachers will get a head start on the new modern math program required by the state. Not only will Torrance youngsters on all grade levels have an opportunity to study modern math state requirements only call for teaching it in first, sec-

ond and seventh grade this year, but their parents will as well. Adult education courses in modern math will be offered at every elementary school in Torrance.

The 12-hour course will be given one night a week for six weeks to help acquaint parents with the backgrounds and reasoning behind the new math concepts.

LISTENING POSTS equipped with earphones and tape recorders will be set up in

seventh and eighth grade classes to implement the teaching of Spanish—which is also being taught in Torrance a year ahead of required state deadlines. Each of the city's four high schools will have a completely equipped language lab where the teacher will control a master deck of tape recorders as students sit in individual listening booths, tuning in on their own private tapes and recording their own voices in a foreign language.

Remedial reading centers will be located at eight elementary schools to service neighboring schools. Federal schools will send children who are two years behind in reading to the centers where specially-trained remedial reading teachers will work with groups of three to five children per hour. Purpose of the centers is to bring the very slow readers up to grade level.

Perhaps the biggest innovation will be the processing of high school report cards through the use of electronic equipment. Data processing machines will not only process high school students' report cards; they will compute cafeteria costs, enrollment reports, and will safeguard inventory controls. Pushbutton walls, parents flocking back to school on masse to keep up with the times, listening posts, and data processed report cards. Such is School—1963. After that, it's anybody's guess.

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Ten Year Employees Get Pins

Nearly 600 years of service to education will be honored Tuesday, Sept. 15, when pins are presented to all Torrance Unified School District employees who have served 10 years.

A special recognition breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. at the South High School cafeteria for 58 members of the staff of the school district. Included are 46 teachers and administrators and 12 non-teaching employees who have served for a decade. There are 32 women and 26 men.

Those to be honored are: Robert Allen, Jerry Andrews, James R. Armstrong, Edna A. Babcock, Barbara L. Booth, Margaret K. Brennan, Edwin F. Brown, Raymond E. Collins, Mary A. Coover, Elinor Courtney, Marylyn Cravens, Irene D. DeFrance, Frank S. Demyan, Robert S. Dollarhide, Hugh H. Dooley, Dr. Donald K. Duncan, William C. Ellings.

Catherine G. Fitzgerald, William B. Forrest, Nora F. Foster, Margaret L. Gaedke, Glenn F. Hawley, Mary E. Heilman, Evelyn C. Hilden, James Jackson, Audrey C. Mahan, Zelpha C. Maynard, John S. McGee, Patrick K. McManus, M. Ruth McVicker, Blessing R. Moore, M. Irene Morgan.

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Oscar Gary, Phyllis W. Henderson, Utah Kemp, William E. Kilgroe, Helen B. Lorenz, Luke C. Nickol, Carl F. Pisel, Aline W. Poole, Alfred C. Posthumus, Ellery F. Price, Lois L. Sherwood, and Dorothy Mearing.

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Paul C. Patrick, machinist's mate 2.C., USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Patrick, 3410 West 171st St., is a crew-member of the destroyer USS Henderson operating with the Seventh Fleet in the Far East.