

Teachers Need Time

Group Study Projects Help Make Day Longer

One of the trickiest challenges facing teachers is the maneuvering of time so that they can squeeze into the school day not only the minimum courses of study set by the State of California but delve more deeply into learning in its entirety.

With some 20 subjects required by law, it isn't easy. But the faculty at a Torrance

school believes they have found a way.

When Ralph Wilson, principal at Adams Elementary School, set up the departmentalized curriculum for seventh and eighth grades this fall, he added an extra period. By getting school off to an early start each day, he was able to eke out the precious extra minutes to make this possible.

RESULT IS a time block that teachers are using to explore study skills, math application, literature and art and music.

How does it work? Each of the four "extra" areas of study are scheduled for nine weeks. When the departmentalized student completes one nine-week course, he goes on to the next. By the end of the year each student has had a crack at all four extras.

During the three-week time span that the library group is learning to set up a card file, the economics group is "playing" the stock market. By following the daily progress of a stock he has chosen to study, the student learns about the working of the nation's economic system.

Meanwhile members of the special research group are being prepared for high school by learning the ins and outs of gathering notes, writing reports, making outlines, and compiling bibliographies. At the end of three weeks, the groups switch assignments.

THE 45-MINUTE periods give the teachers sufficient time to really delve into the subject at hand. In the study skills class, students are divided into three groups, one dealing with library skills, and one dealing with research skills, and one with economic structure.

PURPOSE OF the math applications group is to provide modern math students with an opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge to practice. After learning how to figure the volume of air in a school building during a modern math session, math applications students are given an opportunity to get out in the schoolyard, measure angles and shadows with the proper instruments, and apply the formulas they have been taught to a real situation. They also receive first-hand experience with teaching machines during this "extra" period.

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