

AT ARNOLD SCHOOL

Classes Study Use Of Metric System

The year 1980 may seem a long time off to most people. But to Edward Allen Goldsmith, math and science teacher at Arnold Elementary School, and other members of the Torrance Schools' Metric Committee, it's practically around the corner.

"That's the year the United States plans to have this country's system of measurements catch up with Europe's," he said, "and as far as I'm concerned the time to start planning for converting

Attends Seminar

Frank L. Mattox, assistant superintendent of Torrance schools for business, participated last week in a conference on program budgeting at the University of California at Los Angeles.

to the Metric System is now through eighth grade students at Arnold Elementary School.

BY THE TIME next year's crop of kindergartners graduate from high school, Americans no longer will speak in terms of feet and pounds and quarts. Instead, distances will be measured in terms of meters and weights in terms of grams and liters.

But at the present time, Goldsmith explained, the only materials in existence for teaching the metric system are written for high school and college students.

To acquaint the younger child with the metric system, Goldsmith has developed materials geared toward the 10- to-14-year-old child. Experimenting with the use of these materials, which can be used alone or in conjunction with a slide viewer, are fourth-

through eighth grade students at Arnold Elementary School.

THE METRIC materials are written in language that can be understood by the middle and upper grade youngsters and which fit into the present science and math curriculum in the Torrance schools.

Emphasis in the math class is on theory or ways to solve problems, Goldsmith said, and in science classes is on applying the system through discovery.

Before a student is introduced to the metric system, Goldsmith shows a filmstrip of the pilot program at Arnold School. As the program takes shape, it is anticipated that the district mathematics committee will consider using the kit in all elementary schools in Torrance.

In-depth learning begins in the fifth grade where the student is taught to measure lengths from millimeters to kilometers. He learns the metric system of volume in sixth grade and of metric in seventh grade.

In the eighth grade, Goldsmith's students no longer use feet, pounds, and quarts. They use the metric system entirely. Their beginning chemistry provides an excellent means of applying the system.

TORRANCE educators are closely watching the outcome of the pilot program at Arnold School. As the program takes shape, it is anticipated that the district mathematics committee will consider using the kit in all elementary schools in Torrance.

Meanwhile, Goldsmith has become aware of an additional interest in his system of programmed learning. Looking over his shoulder is a national publisher.

If things work out, the materials being used to teach

the metric system to elementary school children in Torrance may well become the tools that will be used throughout the United States to prepare the Class of '80 to shorten distance in the metric world in which they'll live.

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