

within the school unit. Grouping is essentially an attempt to bring together students of similar abilities in order to meet the educational program that meets their needs. Grouping is determined on the basis of achievement and aptitude tests and teacher appraisal of the individual pupil.

Elementary schools of Anchorage utilize ability grouping, primarily based on reading. The high schools practice grouping in English, mathematics and science classes, and the high schools in English have some social studies courses.

Tracking is a term used to describe the method employed in secondary schools by which students plan for a particular program of studies. Anchorage schools employ the three traditional "tracks" — college preparatory, business education, and general education. Although he may be following one track, the student can take courses in another. For instance, the business education student might well choose to take a course in creative writing. A student following primary business education or college preparatory track successfully can be eligible for college entrance. Any Alaska high school graduate is eligible to attend the University of Alaska.

An ungraded primary center in the Anchorage School District was opened in December, 1961 when Mrs. Gladys Johnson, Principal of Turnagain, and her staff became involved in this new idea, studied its merits and requested permission to try it out. Three elementary schools have adopted the ungraded primary organization since that time, Turnagain, Lake Otis, and Den-

mark, from one level to another at his own rate of speed. The pupil will usually complete the required levels in three years, having mastered the essential skills.

that the ungraded primary is particularly favorable for the so-called late bloomer, resulting in fewer children having to repeat a primary year. The results, however, are still inconclusive. If further experience, study and appraisal are positive, other elementary schools in the School District will no doubt also adopt this organizational pattern.

Have a Question?

Do you have a question about your schools? Your School District will be pleased to answer it. Just write in below and send to

Dr. Don M. Dafoe
Superintendent of Schools

1602 Hillcrest Drive
Anchorage, Alaska



Viewing a Special Project

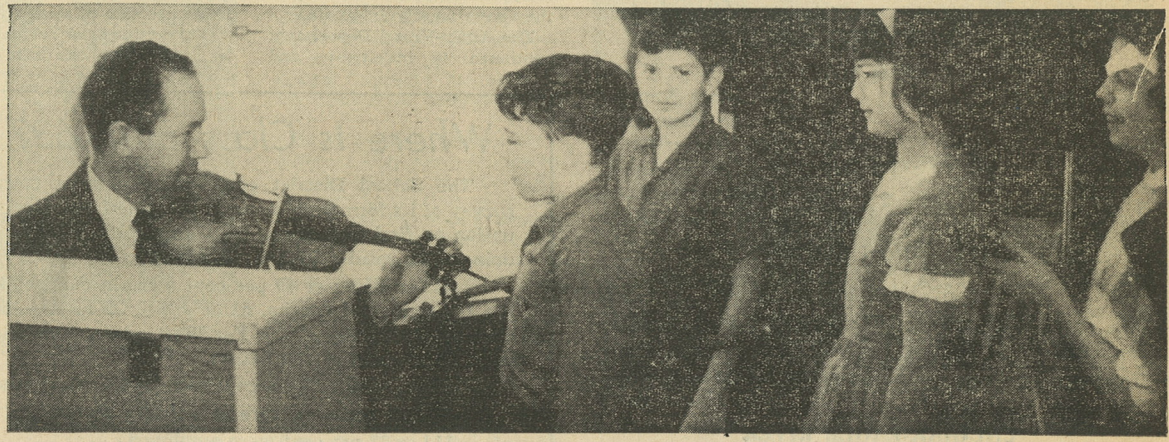
Miss Ione Engen, fourth grade teacher at Willow Crest displays a raised sawdust contour map of old Alaska made by her students to Mrs. Betty Baer, Elementary Art Consultant. The map was created as part of a social studies unit on Alaskan history.

Instructors for the program were Frank Pinkerton, vocal and music teacher at East High School, and Mrs. Leah Telford and Mrs. Pamela Cooper, Anchorage musicians. Group lessons were offered twice a week. The program will be offered again in the 1964-65 year with wider school participation. Mr. Pinkerton will supervise, coordinate and teach in the coming year.

String Instruments Score Hit

A pilot project initiated last year that shows every evidence of becoming an established part of the curriculum was the elementary Stringed Instrument Program. Beginning in December, classes for beginners on the violin, viola and cello were offered during the school day at

Inlet View and Williwaw Schools and after school at Lake Otis, North Star and Turnagain. The programs at the latter units were jointly sponsored by the school district and the PTA. The participating schools were chosen on the basis of parent interest elicited through a questionnaire.



Tuning Up

Instructor Frank Pinkerton tunes a violin for a young student at Inlet View School as other students wait their turn. Inlet

View was one of the pilot schools for the very successful new stringed instrument program.