

Borough Schools Focus On Teaching Child As Individual

By DIANNE ANDERSON
Times Staff Writer

Teaching a child as an individual, using his own personality and interests as a starting point, is the goal of the Greater Anchorage Area Borough School District and a goal it has been doing much to reach during the past year.

Dr. Carlisle Kramer, superintendent of schools, believes that "there is so much to know now, no matter how we work it, the student can't take everything he would like to." One answer to this dilemma, which has been

working beautifully, according to Kramer, is the phase elective system, put into effect this semester for English courses on the senior high level.

Basically, the system allows a student to choose several areas he is especially interested in to study in depth for a short time. This replaces the old program in which all students took the same thing at the same time for a semester or a year, whether or not he had any particular interest or use for it.

"If you can capture what a

child is interested in, and channel that, you have motivation," Kramer says. "Timing is very important in catching a child's interest, and a lock-step progression is unnecessary."

"The superintendent hopes to see the phase elective program expanded to mathematics, science and social studies. Algebra doesn't have to come before geometry, he said, although that is how it is traditionally taught. That would also apply to set sequences of biology, chemistry, and physics, as well as poetry, drama and 20th century fiction.

The data processing system, which has often been accused of transforming youngsters into many-digit numbers, actually is a basic key enabling the district to serve individuals, not groups.

For instance, without the help of the computers in scheduling, the phase elective program could very well be too time consuming for counselors to be very effective. Information stored on computer tapes helps counselors locate youngsters with special problems, too.

Use of the computer, which is shared with the borough administrator, has been greatly increased this past year.

It has been used not only to grade tests, but also to evaluate the tests. For example, by computing how many youngsters have missed the same question on a test, a teacher can determine whether the question possibly was misleading or that the material was not sufficiently covered in class.

course at Dimond High School. East, Dimond and West also began a new Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program this year with nearly 400 enrolled.

Last spring, in addition to the key punch instruction, a full semester course in data processing was started at Dimond. In all grades, the district is getting more and more reading that is how it is traditionally taught. That would also apply to set sequences of biology, chemistry, and physics, as well as poetry, drama and 20th century fiction.

This also works in reverse, for young children with high vocabularies, the superintendent said. The instructional materials center for library resources, audio-visual materials and instructional television has allowed the district to get the "utmost mileage" from its various books, films and other specialized instructional materials. The instructional television center, this year has increased its elementary school TV offerings in various fields through cooperative efforts with local television stations.

Behind the scenes, the personnel division points to a strong working relationship with the professional teachers' organization, to wage increases for teachers and classified workers, and to the division's strong recruitment programs as high spots in 1968 activities.

Another "behind the scenes" development was the major reorganization of school administration this fall and summer, which resulted in the creation of the division of school facilities, which is developing plans for a major school construction

program for next summer utilizing the \$10 million in school bonds authorized by voters this fall.

Also created was the business management division, which handles the expenditure of over \$2 million a month for payroll, various purchasing requirement and debt service.

With these accomplishments, what more does the school district plan for the future? A lot of things, but Kramer personally hopes for an optional and tuition-free summer school. "This is the best answer to those who support year-around

school, Kramer said, and it would more adequately fulfill the needs of individual community members. The district does operate a summer program now, but must charge tuition. Attendance jumped last summer, partially, Kramer believes, because of the tuition reduction.

"I'd like to see state funds for summer school like there is for the rest of the year," the superintendent said.

One aspect of this summer program could be regular camp situations away from the city, where the students would live together and spend the sum-

mer studying some special area of interest. There are many private music camps throughout the country. Kramer sees public natural science camps, advanced electronics camps, as well as camps for the fine arts. The students would be drawn from all the borough schools.

The year 1969 might hold the beginnings of such a program. It would depend, in part, on the state legislature. But for certain, the borough's schools will continue to advance in the direction of more personalized teaching techniques and varied educational offerings.

Kimura Pledges To 'Do My Best'

By MARGARET SCHMIDT
Times Staff Writer

The city's newest councilman, George Kimura, is a modest 52-year-old businessman who feels more at ease in the serene surroundings of his Japanese-style restaurant than in the public eye.

An Anchorage resident for most of his life, Kimura said he was very honored to be appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Senator Joe Josephson in November. But, said Councilman Kimura, "It is quite a responsibility to be a councilman. I will have much to learn and I will do my best for the people of Anchorage.

Born in Seattle, Kimura came



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