

THE PRINCIPALS OF PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION (adopted by the Progressive Education Association, 1920)

FREEDOM TO DEVELOP NATURALLY

The conduct of the pupil should be governed by himself according to the social needs of his community, rather than by arbitrary laws. Full opportunity for initiative and self-expression should be provided, together with an environment rich in interesting material that is available for the free use of every pupil.

INTEREST, THE MOTIVE OF ALL WORK

Interest should be satisfied and developed through:

- 1) Direct and indirect contact with the world and its activities, and use of the experience thus gained.
- 2) Application of knowledge gained, and correlation between different subjects.
- 3) The consciousness of achievement.

THE TEACHER IS A GUIDE, NOT A TASKMASTER

It is essential that teachers should believe in the aims and general principles of Progressive Education and that they should have latitude for the development of initiative and originality. Progressive teachers will encourage the use of all the senses, training the pupils in both observation and judgment; and instead of hearing recitations only, will spend most of the time teaching how to use various sources of information, including life activities as well as books; how to reason about the information thus acquired; and how to express forcefully and logically the conclusions reached.

SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF PUPIL DEVELOPMENT

School records should not be confined to the marks given by the teachers to show the advancement in their study of subjects, but should also include both objective and subjective reports on the physical, mental, moral and social characteristics which affect both school and adult life, and which guide for the treatment of each pupil, and should also serve to focus the attention of the teacher on the all-important work of development rather than on simply teaching subject-matter.

GREATER ATTENTION TO ALL THAT AFFECT THE CHILD'S PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the first considerations progressive Education is the health of the pupils. Much more room in which to move about, better light and air, clean and well ventilated buildings, easier access to the out-of-doors and greater use of it, are all necessary. There should be frequent use of adequate playgrounds. The teachers should observe closely the physical conditions of each pupil and, in cooperation with home, make abounding health the first objective of childhood.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILD LIFE

The school should provide, with the home, as much as is possible of all that the natural interests and activities of the child demand, especially during the elementary school years. These conditions can come about only through intelligent operations between parents and teachers.

THE PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL, A LEADER IN EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENTS

The Progressive School should be a leader in educational movements. It should be a laboratory where new ideas, if worthy, meet encouragement; where tradition alone does not rule, but the best of the past is leavened with the discoveries of today, and the result is freely added to the sum of educational knowledge.