

Nickell Tells of School Aims in Art Education

Self Expression by the Child Is Goal, Superintendent Says.

A school of art education that is characterized by self expression by the child is the aim of Champaign schools, V. L. Nickell, superintendent, declared in his weekly bulletin to faculty members this week.

"There may be said to be two schools in art," Mr. Nickell writes. "One may be characterized by saying that the major emphasis is on reproduction, copy work, etc. This becomes stereotyped work.

Child-Centered School

"The other school is characterized by self expression by the child; child-centered as over against adult-centered art. This type is creative for the most part, it is conspicuous by the absence of dictation. No two products in a room are alike, individuals when dependent upon initiative will of necessity be different.

"In Champaign we want the second type to prevail. I cannot see but very little value in the former type. It seems to me that by following such a philosophy, we emphasize what we might term regimentation in art. To me that is not sound in educational principles. The individual must be the center of education in a democracy."

Can Express Ideas

Listing the fundamental values in art education, Mr. Nickell points out, "Art education enables the child to express his ideas concerning his experiences. This expression involves thinking and feeling and the independence of each personality.

"Art gives the child opportunity to use different materials and techniques for his expression. This means that there is a growing sense of confidence and self direction in manipulating materials to express ideas.

"The appreciation of a work is a recreation of the object of beauty in the mind of the appreciator. To know and love the art of other individuals and peoples is to gain a sympathetic insight into their ways of thinking and living.

Helps Individual

"Art education helps the individual to evolve an ever heightening standard of discrimination in his choice of his surroundings. This is an important development for society as well, for, as the individual changes the environment in which he lives, so does the environment mold the individual.

"The total outcome in a well-planned and executed program of art education is enriched living, development of character and freedom of personality."