



Madison County Genealogical Society



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Madison County School News

School Bells Ring Out

Another Term of Answering Roll Call Has Come

Superintendent is Hopeful

Mr. Bodwell Believes That This Will Be a Good Year---Twenty-Seven Teachers Preside at the Various Desks---How Vacations Were Spent.

School bells rang out on the morning air in Norfolk this morning for the first time in three months, and around the five Norfolk school houses there were, for the first time since last June, clusters of neatly gowned children, their faces and hands exceedingly clean, all nervous in the anticipation of the first day's rush for the best seats and the sizing up of the new teacher.

It was impossible to tell today just how many pupils are enrolled in the schools this year, but it will be somewhere between 1,500 and 2,000. Twenty-seven teachers, all feeling in the best of spirits after three months of rest and recreation, took their places at school room desks this morning to look after the rising generation of this community during the coming nine months.

Superintendent Bodwell was enthusiastic in his hope for a good school year, and all of the teachers in the city seemed to share his confidence that the coming year will be one of the best that has ever been known in Norfolk's public school system.

During the summer that has just past, the Norfolk school boys and girls have enjoyed varied forms of vacation and fun. Many of them have spent a portion of their time in camping beside some cool spring, some of them have been away for several weeks visiting uncles and aunts and grandfathers and grandmothers, some have spent the time at work and in learning something about this business or that, while others have just stayed at home to play baseball and fly kites the whole summer through.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Tues. September 4, 1906, page 3.

High School Is Crowded

More than 150 Students Enrolled for the One Room.

Are Seventy Freshman Alone

The Largest Class of Seniors That Ever Started in the Norfolk High School, Begins This Term, Being Twenty-five All Told.

The high school attendance this year eclipses all records. There are more than 150 students in the high school alone, as a result of which the high school room is overcrowded. There are seventy freshmen and twenty-five members of the senior class—the largest senior class that has yet been known in the Norfolk school.

Just what will be done with the overflow in the high school is a question which is perplexing the superintendent and teachers today.

An incomplete list of those who become seniors today are: Geneva Moolick, Agnes and Nellie Flynn, Edith Barrett, Erna Wilde, Edith Esterbrook, Georgia Blakeman, Elenore Mueller, Anna Mueller, Lois Gibson, Mellie Bridge, Nola Walker, Elsie Johnson, Rebecca Duggan, Boyd Blakeman, William Hauptli, Elmer Hardy, Sam Erskine and Harry Rix. Misses Matilda Herman, Lizzie Schramm, Glennie Shippee, Margaret Hamilton and Ross Tyndall.

A complete and corrected list will be published later. Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Tues. September 4, 1906, page 4.

New System in Schools

Promotions Will Be Made Each Half Year Now

Will Save Quantity of Time

Where a Pupil Has Failed He Will Only Have to Go Over a Half Year's Work in the Future, Instead of an Entire Year as in the Past.

A new system of promotions has been adopted by the board of education for the Norfolk public schools up to and including the eighth grade. Hereafter promotions will be made twice a year instead of once, and each grade in the school will be divided into two separate and distinct classes, one a half year ahead of the other. The advantages from the new system over the old are that time will be saved, since a pupil who fails in his final examination at the end of a half year will have only a half year's work to do over instead of a full year's work, as heretofore has been the case; and the work in each grade, being divided into two distinct parts, will be more thorough.

The greatest advantage from the new system is in time saved those who have failed in a final examination. Under the old system this pupil was obliged to remain for another entire year in the same grade. Under the new system he will only have to go back and make up a half year's school work before going on with the next grade.

The new system was adopted by the board of education at its meeting held Monday night, and it is this week being put into effect for the first time. The system is much the same as that used in the university of Nebraska, where the year is divided into two semesters, and is identical with the system now in vogue at high schools in all of the cities larger than Norfolk and in most of them of Norfolk's size.

Under the new rule, for instance, there are two classes in the preliminary room, A and B. A pupil entering this fall goes into the A class and at the end of four and a half months, provided he passes examinations, goes into the B class.

In this way the teacher will keep doing two sets of work at the same time, each class being a cycle by itself, as it were, revolving around and around each half year.

As one result, pupils may enter school at the middle of the year as well as the beginning, where they have been able to enter only on the first of September, heretofore. The half year student, or one who gets started in the middle of the year, will thus be promoted from one grade to another in the middle of each year, and will only go from one class to another each new year.

The only place that it will be necessary for a pupil to wait for the rest of the class, the grade having been completed in the middle of the year, will be in the eighth grade, since it is not possible to enter the high school on half year terms, this system not having been carried out here as yet. In time, however, it will go into effect there also, probably. The saving of time in the lower grades, however, will compensate for any waiting done at the end of the eighth grade.

The high school is not included in this new system because a much increased force of teachers would be needed for the work there if the rule were adopted.

Superintendent Bodwell is enthusiastic as to the advantages to be gained by the change of systems. Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Thurs. September 6, 1906, page 3.

Junior College is Assured In Norfolk

Norfolk citizens Tuesday voted almost two to one in favor of establishing a junior college. The vote was 1, 076 to 550. The board of education, with this sentiment of the voters before them, will take steps for establishment of the two-year college starting the first year term in the fall of 1928.

Although the election was not official, the board had promised to abide by its resolution. Source: Madison Star Mail, Dec. 8, 1927, page 6