

A GOOD SCHOOL: WHAT TO LOOK FOR
by Bronia Grunwald

1. Student and teacher respect each other and are considerate of each other and neither of them is threatened by the other.
2. Students are not placed in competitive roles but function in collaborative relationships. The emphasis is on the "we."
3. The emphasis is not on mere conformity but on social interest, on caring, and on recognizing the necessity of rules and regulations.
4. Students are not just objects to whom things are made to happen but are encouraged to be active shapers of their own experience, to help plan and evaluate themselves and others, and help form class policies.
5. The daily time sequences are flexible, not arbitrary, but are adjusted to the actual needs of each program, if at all possible.
6. Learning rates vary, and students are not penalized or rewarded for such variations.
7. Students are allowed to participate in and organize their own activities (as much as possible); and are given options from which to choose.
8. Activities include field trips and relevant interaction with the larger community.
9. The curriculum deals not only in facts but also moves into values, asking questions and problem solving.
10. The curriculum recognizes that knowledge also includes self-knowledge and the teachers take time to train children to understand their behavior and the behavior of others.
11. Effective group discussions are held regularly, training children to help each other.
12. Students are invited to teach other students and to be concerned about their academic progress. They are trained in the art of encouragement.
13. Punitive efforts are replaced by training the students to experience the consequences of their behavior.
14. Children are encouraged to befriend children of different backgrounds and abilities and are grouped heterogeneously.
15. Teachers and parents are cooperative with one another.
16. Teachers and counselors work cooperatively and constructively together.
17. Children are helped to understand that what happens to them in the future will greatly depend on what they are doing today.