

*Learning
a
Trade is
Cool*

The Falcon



*at the
Montgomery
County Vo-
Tech School*

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POTTSGROVE JR.-SR. HIGH SCHOOL, POTTSTOWN, ROUTE 18, PA.

JANUARY 30, 1970

Technical School Offers Unique Trade Curriculum

In the fall semester of 1967 the Western Montgomery County Vocational School opened in Limerick. Since that time it has offered a curriculum much different than that of the usual academic high school to students from the Pottsgrove, St. Pius, Spring-Ford, and Upper Perkiomen school districts. This school presently has an enrollment of 502 pupils for whom it is providing practical training in fourteen specialized fields. Because many people know very little about this fine and very necessary institution, the Falcon is presenting this extra issue to describe the vocational school and its various activities.

The 123 Pottsgrove students who attend the Vocation-Technical School during half of each day had to meet certain requirements before they were permitted to enter their chosen courses. Once enrolled in the course the student must maintain a 'good average' if he is to remain.

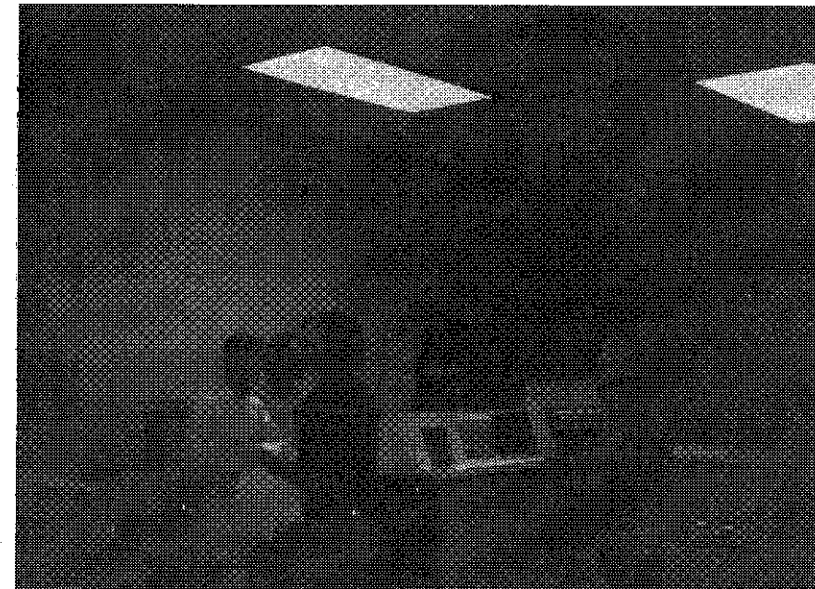
Learn by Doing

To gain a broader knowledge of their trade, students in various departments participate in a cooperative work program. Under this program pupils spend time working at a job related to their trade rather than attending the vocational school. The school places the student in this job and checks regularly to insure that he gains an education from it. The employer agrees to give the pupil opportunities to learn various phases of the trade and assists the teacher in making an honest appraisal of the student's performance.

Machines Put to Use In Vo-Tech Class

The course in machine trades, which consists of forty-four students, is taught by Mr. John Kruszewski. The course prepares the students for specific jobs in companies. There are five basic occupations for which they are trained. These are machine operators, ma-

Vocational Students Instructed Many Functions, Report Card Processing



Hard Working Data Processing Students

In this department report cards are done for Spring-Ford, Upper Perkiomen, St. Pius, and Pottsgrove. This is the Data Processing unit, with Mr. Kulp instructing the first year students and Mr. Reinecki and assistant Karen Engle teaching the juniors and seniors. Students enter this course with some apprehension but soon shed it. Students that are entering should have some ability of mechanics for operating the card punch and card verifying machine, and if something would occur to the machine, the student could generally tell what is not functioning properly. Mathematics is also an important ingredient in Data Processing.

Three Year Electronics Tech Course Sharpens Knowledge For Future Use

Electronics Technology, one of the jobs of the future, has a variety of opportunities that can be obtained after leaving the Vo-Tech School. In this course, which is instructed by Mr. Binder, the subject matter is technology in electronics, and not merely how to assemble radios and television sets.

A full course in Electronics usually lasts for three years. but if a

First year students take geometry, and juniors and seniors take trigonometry and physics. Book-keeping and typing are done to get a better foundation in using the card punching machines.

Tests which are given are very similar in 1st and 2nd year grades. Jobs are given on the card punching machines and 2nd year stu-

Experienced Teachers

Vocational teachers must have six years practical experience in their trade before they can qualify as teachers. However, even this valuable experience is not enough to satisfy the state's high standards, and therefore, these teachers must earn sixty academic college credits within a maximum of ten years. Upon completion of their college training these vocational teachers receive the equivalent of a bachelor's degree.

Sawdust Students Hammer Out Constructive Skills

Carpentry and Building Trades are taught by Mr. William Rupell. Spanning across three years, this course involves 20 boys in the morning and 18 in the afternoon. The first year basic skills are taught; during the second year they learn the use of electric machines, and in the third year, students become foremen or work on large projects.

These ambitious students have done repair work and remodeling throughout the school and have even constructed buildings to aid other departments. Some of these projects include the building of a wall for the data processing room; the production of racks for distributive education; the construction of a slat house for horticulture; a barn built for agriculture; and a tool crib produced for the auto body shop.

When these students graduate, they can either take an apprenticeship course or get a job with a contractor. The skills learned at Vocational-Technical school will enable them to become productive individuals, using their own initiative to gain a comfortable position in a community.

chine maintenance, all-round machinists, toolmakers, and tool and die makers. The students are qualified to become machine operators when they graduate. An apprenticeship is required to become skilled in the other four occupations.

The students make many of their own tools in this class that are not only useful to them in the future but also save them money. The machine shop is a very useful department at the school, for it develops parts for other departments.

Contemporary Methods Taught In Vo-Tech Agriculture Dept.

Those who graduate from the Limerick Vocational - Technical school and work in agriculture will have a very good background into the practical, yet contemporary viewpoint.

Lecture and Groundwork

Time is allotted for lectures on certain days in the agriculture department. The other days are for learning what is needed when working with the earth and growing different plants. The class uses the best of equipment made possible by the school.

talented student can progress adequately, he may do it at his own speed. Much of the material is practical with a first year emphasis on theory and the last two years are concerned with practicum.

Course Objectives

In the field of electronics technology, course objectives vary. Most important is to provide the student with the knowledge and skills that will prepare him for the future. This course should develop in the students an attitude and understanding for employer-employee relationships. It develops a sense of pride and confidence in the students. Future technicians are taught good work and study habits and encourages them to work on their own with safety precautions.

The Vo-Tech School with its advanced machinery has one of the best equipped electronics labs which surpasses many college labs in this area in this field. Mr. Binder applies the "honesty system" in his classroom. Pupils are free to study as they please using the equipment at their disposal.

Sparks Jump At Welders

Mr. Flynn, the teacher of a class of prospective welders, is in the process of training thirty-five boys through the use of theory and practice. First year students do practice exercises from their textbooks, but second and third year pupils design original projects.

Tools of the Trade

Many machines, such as grinders, electrodes, and cutting torches fill the room. Work clothes, protective glasses, and a strange looking helmet are necessary for protection from sparks or dangerous ultra-violet rays.

Mr. Flynn's only goal is to produce first class welders. Because each student completes exercises at his own rate, competition is frowned upon. The trust between teacher and student is evident as Mr. Flynn prepares his welding class for future employment.

Important Procedure

Making report cards is an important process. First, the data is gathered from home school and is typed on special computer forms. Second, the reproducer types the students homeroom and grade on the cards; then the cards go through the selector and put into grades and homerooms. Third, the cards are put into a machine and here the names of the students are punched onto the cards. Fourth, the cards are put into the Univac 9200 (Computer) and the grades are computed.

Karen Engle, who had graduated from the Vo-Tech school last year, was hired by the school to assist the instructor and to do the report cards. Karen works all the lab-equipment.

Students can graduate from the school, and if they had three years of data processing, they could become key punchers in industry.

Varied Courses Taught By Vo-Tech Teachers

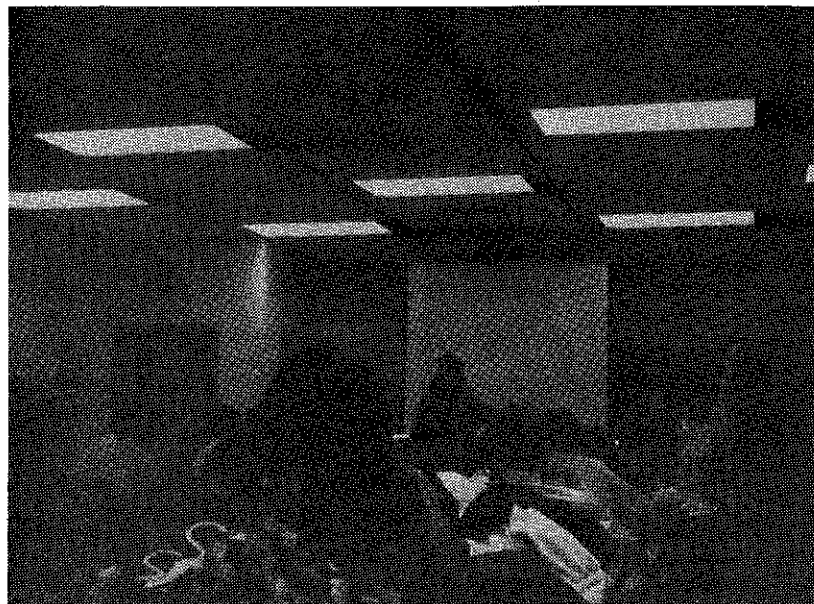
Agriculture	Mr. Michelone
Audio-Visual	Mr. Thomas
Auto Body Mechanics	Mr. Kiesel
Auto Mechanics	Mr. Bradley
Building Trades	Mr. Rupell
Cosmetology	Mr. Krempasky
Data Processing	Mr. Kulp
Design Technology	Mr. Pastelak
Distributive Education	Miss Landes
Electricity	Mr. Lloyd
Electronics	Mr. Binder
Horticulture-Floriculture	Mr. Mutschler
Machine Trade	Mr. Kruszewski
Welding	Mr. Flynn

AUTO BODIES DONE BY VO-TECH BOYS

When entering the Auto Body shop at the Vo-Tech school, one might be confronted by fifteen shabbily dressed boys, climbing on three old cars. Don't be surprised! This is the way the class is supposed to be.

The classes last three hours a day, and are usually divided into two parts. The first hour is a lecture, and the remaining time is used for the boys to practice what they have learned. There is a very comfortable atmosphere between the teacher, Mr. Kiesel, and the students.

The course lasts for three years. In the last semester of the third year, if the student is qualified, he may get a job at a local body shop. Now this becomes his school, and he is not required to attend the Vo-Tech School.



A Glimpse at an Audio-Visual Class.

COMMUNICATION MEDIA STUDIED IN LIMERICK

One of the courses offered by the Western Montgomery Vocational Technical School is completely unique. Audio-Visual Communications Technology, taught by Mr. Willard D. Thomas is the only course of its type offered on a high school level in the entire nation.

At the present time, there is a total of thirty-seven students enrolled in this course which trains a student in graphic arts, audio-visual projection, photography, dark-room techniques, the processing of microfilm, television production, and motion picture production. The

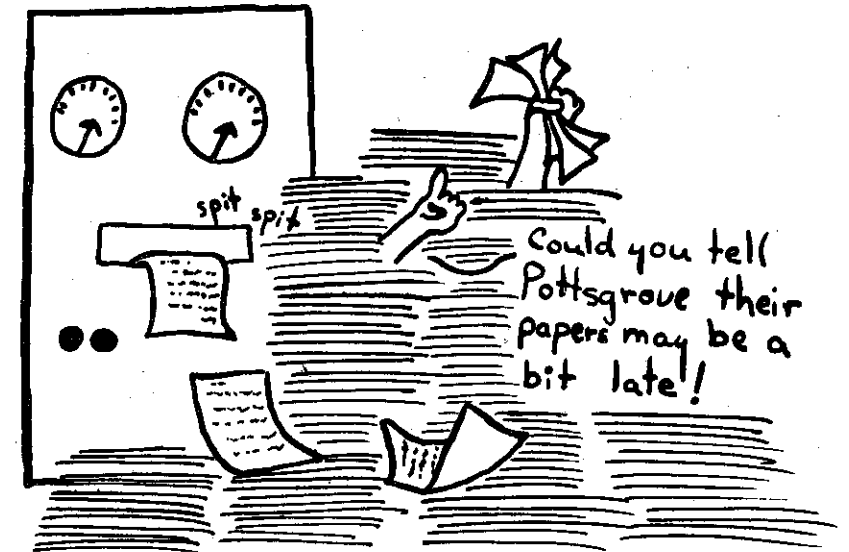
equipment available for the student's use in this area is valued at \$150,000. After completing this course, a student can choose a job in one of the many related fields.

Unique Studies

Upon entering this department, one encounters a world completely foreign to that of the usual academic curriculum. These rooms contain equipment for developing, drying, and enlarging photographs and making microfilm and transparencies. Here, a television show could be filmed and printing can be done. Having explored each of these various phases of communications, a student may develop a special interest in one particular area. In his senior year the pupil is given an opportunity to specialize in this particular field and thus better prepare himself for his chosen career. After graduating from this course, many of the students will continue their education in post high school, technical schools or college.

NEW COURSE WILL SPARK ELECTRICAL INTERESTS

Electrical work is a new vocation at the technical school this year. Although this is only the first year, the curriculum is well arranged. The classes consist mostly of juniors and sophomores. The sophomores are the only ones able to complete three full years because at the present time there is only enough equipment for the first year



Pupils Operate "Corner House"; Experience and Pleasure Combined

Everyone is directly or indirectly involved in merchandising or retailing. Distributive education gives the student the basic fundamentals of advertising and displaying of merchandise.

The D. E. course is divided into two categories, tenth grade and combined eleventh and twelfth grades. Mr. Whyte is in charge of the tenth grade course in which the students learn how to make displays, take inventory, and learn about stock and retail sales. They run the school store, the corner house, which is open every Monday through Saturday, nine to five.

The eleventh and twelfth grade class do advanced work with stocks, inventory, retailing, merchandising, and window displays in front of the store. Miss Landes, the instructor of this group, brings clothes from corner house to be criticized and evaluated. The purpose of this activity is to help the corner house decide upon the best type of clothing to manufacture that are appealing to today's young generation.

The teacher, Mr. Lloyd, has set his daily schedule of thirty minutes for theory or booklearning, and the remaining part of the class time is used for applying what has been learned by means of experimenting. The system in the shop is similar to that of a professional shop. Alternately, one student is the foreman, supervising all the work,

Flowers, Trees Bloom Abundantly at Vo-Tech

Following the patterns of the other divided classrooms, the majority of students in the Floriculture classes maintain employment outside of the school. The outside employment helps to enhance the learning received while in school.

Turf building, floral arrangement, nursery work, and many other courses are taught. Recently a slat house was built by the carpentry shop for the storage of shrubbery.

Students Have Greatest Responsibility

The greenhouse provided by the

Three-Year Course Teaches Design Tech

Design Technology is a three year course involving mechanical drawing, architectural drawing, and machine design. First year students study basic mechanical drawing, and second year students have a second year course of mechanical drawing, while third year students continue either in machine designs or architectural drawing. In most cases college is considered after Vo-Tech training, but it isn't mandatory.

Mr. Pastelak, director of the course, urges students to become involved in Vo-Tech, because these courses simulate the actual occupation as accurately as possible.

So far in this course, they have drawn the layouts for a barn and a garage, which are now being constructed.

Within each three hour period, they advance their knowledge and add to their chances for obtaining better occupations.

vocational school is entirely cared for by the students. At Christmas, poinsettia and carnations were grown and sold by the class. Careful control of lighting and temperature allowed the flowers to bloom in red and white.

In the future, the class will partake in the Philadelphia Flower Show to be held at the Civic Center.

Boys Are Preparing For Future Careers

The development of desirable work habits and proper attitudes plays a major part in the training of Automotive Mechanics; these values are continually stressed throughout the course. Students enrolled in this course must follow all shop safety procedures. Each student must wear safety glasses at all times.

At the end of the school term, they will be given a final examination on the material covered during the year. The sophomore class runs the gas station which is open to the public.

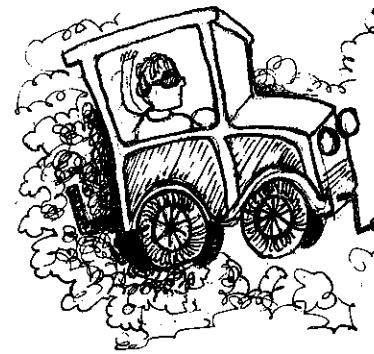
In the second year, major information is covered, such as electrical work, suspension and chassis. The third is a review of the first and second years, but the students work on different cars and trucks donated by different companies. The work they do is mostly done on their own. Ninety-five per cent of the cars that the seniors service belong to the faculty.

are seniors, there will be an entire three year course.



GIRLS!

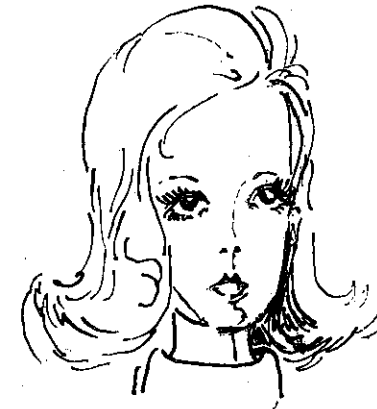
Don't be left out in the cold, get your warm fall and winter wearing apparel at the Distributive Ed. Store. Items priced less. The store is an extension to the Corner House of Quakertown. See their great values any time Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Come on all you jalopy owners. Run, push or tow your jalopy, but do anything to get it to the Vo-Tech Gas Station for a lubrication, oil change, or just to gas it up. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 to 11:00 and 11:45 to 2:30.

ment.

The important factors stressed at all times are general safety and safety procedures in using electrical appliances. Mr. Lloyd believes that in addition to many other qualifications, an electrician must have a mathematic ability.



HEY GALS!!

The Cosmetology Clinic has a program where you girls can get your hair refixed on Wednesdays. Permanent waves and hair coloring are done Thursday and Friday. Hair washing, setting, and styling are done.

So get your head to the clinic for a superb job. Appointments: 8:30, 9:15, 12:00, 12:45 Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.



After 1250 Hours, A Career For Life

Twelve hundred and fifty hours of cosmetology at the vocational school would allow a student to take the state board examination and be a licensed hairdresser. Three years at the school are equal to the necessary 1250 hours.

Work Done on Each Other

Before the students are allowed to work on the patrons who enter the school's shop they must be second year students who have had experience by working on mannequins and each other. By the time the state examination is taken, all of the students are well-instructed in the area of cosmetology.

Various Phases Explored

Students enrolled on the Cosmetology course under the instruction of Mr. Andrew Krempasky study manicuring, facials, the structure of the head, diseases of the scalp and hair, and various other aspects of the business in addition to the processes more commonly associated with hairdressing.

THE FALCON

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