

## Hillcrest Becomes a Primary (K-2) Building

After being built to be a middle school, Hillcrest became an elementary school (K-5) in 1960.

Then in 1980, Hillcrest School became a primary building (K-2), and Bath and Richfield schools became elementary buildings (3-6) for the residents of their communities.

### *Primary pupils' move is smooth in Revere*

By Betsy Lammerding  
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There is a different atmosphere at Hillcrest Elementary School in Richfield this year.

There is still the usual hustle and bustle as students make their way to classes, but it seems to be a bit quieter and more relaxed.

And the average height of students is much shorter.

Hillcrest has been turned into the Revere school district's new primary school. It previously served kindergarten through sixth-grade students. However, since September, the school is only for kindergarten through second grades.

Revere's three elementary schools were reorganized this fall, primarily because of declin-

ing enrollment and a need to save money.

Students in third through sixth grades now attend either Bath or Richfield elementary schools.

**SCHOOL** officials said the re-shuffling was needed to balance-class sizes.

Budd A. Dingwall, Hillcrest principal, said he is pleased with the way the program has worked so far.

"Some of the problems we had feared have just not come to pass," Dingwall said. "True, some students spend a little more time on the bus than they did before, but they've adjusted very well. They're very flexible."

Dingwall said the revised bus-ing schedule has not been a ma-

ior problem anywhere in the district because it was well organized. Parents also have co-operated to make the switch go smoothly.

The consolidation has brought benefits for the 419 students in the primary program, teachers said.

**THEY ARE** able to share more ideas and materials because they are all in the same building. The libraries in each of the elementary schools were consolidated, too, providing more books for students to choose from.

Kindergarten teacher Gladys Liss said one of the advantages is not having to worry about the "big kids."

"When I first heard about the

consolidation, I had some doubts," Mrs. Liss said. "But this has been a beautiful experience. One of the neat things is you don't have to worry about the big kids on the playground."

Other teachers agreed, including Pat Barber, who said the "whole feel of the building is great."

"We don't have any hassles on the bus or playground from the older students," Mrs. Barber said. "In the primary grades, we work hard to teach the students rules and respect."

"The older children go through stages where they have a need to break rules or feel their oats. Sometimes they associated primary teachers with primary students. It's easier for the older

kids to look up to their teachers at the other schools and they're with children on their own level."

Dingwall said teachers and principals at the other schools agree that behavior has improved since the consolidation.

**"WE HAVE** a big area geographically," Dingwall said. "Now we're getting more of a mix of students in the classes from different homes and backgrounds which tends to make for nice class personalities."

He said the new system has a few drawbacks, including the students he now misses.

"Personally, I miss the older students," he said. "I can't get to know the children for as long, because they'll move on more

quickly. I like to follow along on how they're doing. Also, I'm the only male adult in the building now."

"I think we're doing a better job now. We're able to specialize more. This hasn't cost us any-more and we avoided having to make a decision to go to combined classes, such as combined first and second grades in some cases, because of declining enrollment. We didn't want to do that and neither did the public. I think this is more efficient."

Dingwall said the consolidation will continue for "the foreseeable future. If any problems develop, we'll have to reconsider the program. But we feel very good about it so far."