

THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 9, 1965

THROUGH THE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP of Raymond Ryan, Thomaston Jr. H.S. Math instructor, in-service training Math programs were conducted with all elementary teachers this year. Emphasis was placed upon meaning, relationships, and understanding rather than isolated drill on abstract symbols. Instructional emphasis in Arithmetic in Thomaston's elementary schools involves (a) adequate materials, (b) developing number readiness, (c) developing basic number concepts, (d) developing computational skills, (e) developing fractional concepts, (f) developing concepts of measure, (g) improving the use of drill, and (h) improving problem-solving. In our Modern Math program, rote memorization is not abandoned. Certain basic skills (multiplication tables) must become second nature before any degree of sophistication can be realized. This means constant practice and memorization. There is ample room in Mathematics instruction for both the discovery approach and rote memorization. A balanced program including the how and why of Math is essential.

WE ARE MOST SORRY TO REPORT that Robert Pingpank, outstanding Senior High School Mathematics Instructor for seven years, plans to leave Thomaston in June. Mr. Pingpank was most influential in the development and accomplishments of the Math program. He has gained high respect by staff, administration, members of the Board of Education, parents and students. He will be sorely missed by his many friends in the school system.

THOMASTON RECEIVED ITS SHARE of National and State grants this year. NDEA reimbursements were obtained in the areas of Science, Mathematics, Distributive Education, Cooperative Works, Foreign Languages and Libraries. Next year English, Geography, Civics, History, and Reading have been added to Title III by Congress.