

Education

"THE REPORT CARD"

Fine Arts

Yvonne Atkinson



Throughout every school year, performances by bands, choral groups, drama and speech students are presented in our junior and senior high schools. I was reminded of the importance of these events for our students, and the enjoyment that they bring to our citizens with the recent television commercial describing our Gold Card. Mrs. Helen C. Cannon, former member of the Board of School Trustees, advises our senior citizens to apply for a Gold Card and participate in the many activities sponsored at our schools. The Gold Card permits senior citizens to enjoy performances by musical groups or to attend a

play at no cost. It is good entertainment, and certainly encourages our youth in these activities.

While speaking of activities, on Wednesday, October 9, the Clark County School District presented their annual "Halftime Show Review." Many of us attend football games in fall and at halftime leaves our seats to get a coke or a snack. During this time, the school bands, cheerleaders, songleaders, majorettes, flag twirlers, and countless other students provide a musical and marching review. I know that I have, on occasion, taken this performance for granted and I am sure you have as well,

yet hundreds of hours have been utilized in practicing the music and the intricate maneuvers by these high school students.

AN "A" GOES TO OUR BANDS

On this special night in early October, all the bands came together and had their moment at the Silver Bowl. There was no football game, only outstanding musicianship and marching. Mr. Fred Steinbaugh, Fine Arts consultant, coordinates this activity, along with the senior high school band directors. This year's program chairman was William McMosley of the "Million Dollar" band of Clark High School. Those who attended the performance went away with a pride for the accomplishments of our students. Each school had a special presentation, and dressed in their school colors provided an excellent example of educational excellence in performing arts.

I have continued to emphasize for our community the importance of literacy; the absolute

SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

Sunset High School A special school meeting special needs for special kids

Fourteen years ago, the Clark County School District's Board of School Trustees responded to the needs of a group of students enrolled in the comprehensive high schools by creating the first fully accredited evening high school in Nevada. Initially, located on the campus of Valley High School, students in grades 10-12 were permitted to enroll in an educational program which afforded each student an opportunity for vocational training while completing the academic course work required for graduation.

Since its inception, Sunset High School has moved to the campus of Las Vegas High School and now to 900 Hinson Street, where they share facilities with Hyde Park Junior High School. Through the years, literally thousands of young people have graduated from this

essential need for students to be able to read and write and to handle mathematics because without these literacy skills, life is not only frustrating, but almost certain to result in an unrewarding and unfulfilling lifestyle. Equally important are the other areas of study, such as performing and fine arts. These are the areas where our black students can excel and grow through positive experience. For those parents who may want to have their youngster explore band as an elective, the school district provides musical instruction. A District orchestra program is also available, as well as classes in choir, drama, and speech.

Through the remainder of this school year, area schools will present a series of plays and presentations. I encourage our community to support our schools by attending these activities and more importantly, supporting our students. It is through this support and involvement that we can make a difference. Our students, with our help, will make a difference for the world of tomorrow.

program. Their graduating ceremonies have become their mark of success, for it is during this time that each



years' graduates send representatives to the rostrum who spoke fondly of their educational experience.

Mr. Steven Augsburger, principal of Sunset High School, offered the following comments: Sunset offers all the required classes needed for graduation, plus a variety of elective courses. The regular program permits students to take one of six classes from 3:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., Monday-Thursday. Students then have an opportunity to earn additional credit through:

- ...Attending the Area Technical Trade Center during the day and Sunset High School in the evening;

- ...Working a minimum of 20 hours per week in the work experience program;

- ...Electing to take a Friday class in a special vocational or academic area; and,

- ...Opting to earn credit through independent home study.

Sunset High School currently has 309 students enrolled, with eleven full-time faculty members, and sixty part-time staff members. The use of many dedicated part-time professional staff members has contributed to this school's success over the years.

NIGHT OWL

As a way of describing the school's program and its purpose to prospective students, the Sunset logo was prepared. The wheel represents Sunset's commitment to vocational

education. In this regard, Sunset has the largest vocational work experience program in the state. The twenty-four hour community of Las Vegas, with its booming tourist trade, has created an abundance of day and evening employment opportunities for high school-aged students. Over 50 percent of the students enrolled are working either as full or part-time employees. These students have been employed as sales consultants, electricians, child care aids, or in literally dozens of other high demand occupations. The Sunset curriculum corresponds to these needs. The vocational program is scheduled in two-hour blocks, and is based upon competency profomance. When the students have completed their training, they receive a competency based certificate. Sheet metal fabrication, welding, and child care aides are examples of programs where certificates are issued. The Sunset Evening Child Care Center is the first program of its type in the nation. Students who have small

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JAMA planning great halloween fest for children

The Jackson Avenue Merchants Association will soon be sponsoring a Halloween Festivity for the benefit of the youngsters in our community. The children have had a number of negative incidents such as poisoned candy, razor blades in the chocolate bars, etc. The Jackson Avenue Merchants Association are desirous of having the youth to enjoy a safe and decent atmosphere in which they may "Trick and Treat".

There will be foot races and games and other avenues of entertainment. There will be spaces available from which cakes or other items could be offered to the public by area churches.

For information, call 648-8180.



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