

John Dewey High School Awaits September Opening

New York City's school authorities are drafting blueprints for the educational program to be launched next fall when a City multi-million dollar experimental high school opens.

The 3,000-pupil school—designated as the John Dewey HS in memory of the father of the progressive education movement in the United States, and holder of card #1 in the American Federation of Teachers, is being constructed as a laboratory for educational innovation for urban boys and girls of the 1970's, according to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bernard E. Donovan.

The school is under construction in the Coney Island section of Brooklyn at Stillwell Avenue between Avenue X and Avenue Y.

A UFT committee composed of Fred Koury, executive board member, and George Altomare, vice president for Academic High Schools, and others, is working with Dr. Seelig Lester, deputy superintendent of schools in charge of instruction, his associates, officials of Local School Board 21 and a group from the Council of Supervisory Associations in planning for the experimental schools.

Dr. Donovan said construction costs approximating almost \$10 million are being borne by the Board of Education. Operating costs will also be borne by the board except for a planning grant of \$201,282 from the State Urban Education Program.

Racially-Integrated Student Body

The racially integrated student body will be drawn both from the neighborhood and from other areas of Brooklyn, with neighborhood pupils receiving first preference. The entering class will number about 1,100 ninth and tenth graders.

The school's racial balance will be that of the academic high schools' borough-wide ratio.

Dr. Donovan listed some of the educational innovations to be featured at the new John Dewey HS as follows:

- A program of independent study and research at the high school or higher level on a non-graded year-around basis. This will be the City's first year-around school with pupils and teachers continuing over the summer, on an optional basis, the work of the regular school year.

- An eight-hour school day for pupils and teachers, with summer study to be devoted to advanced work or reinforcement

of subject-matter already covered. Adjustments may be made in this program to meet special needs of individual pupils.

Designed to Emphasize Success in Studies

- Five seven-week phases of 36 days each, with the optional summer session also of 36 days. This will be instead of the traditional two-semester plan in the high schools. Also, this more frequent regrouping of pupils every 36 days instead of once or twice a year is designed to emphasize the concept of success rather than failure in studies.

- Utilization of an electronic computer to plan individual class schedules for every pupil and teacher.

- Employing experimental pedagogical approaches including teaching by television, tape recorders and other audio-visual equipment; programmed instruction, teams of teachers and teaching machines.

- Eliminating the distinction between major and minor subjects.

- Incorporating extra-class activities into the curriculum.

- Requiring instruction in typing for every student.

- Making every student a participant in extra-curricular activities, intra-mural athletics and college guidance, with classroom teachers supplementing the regular guidance staff in serving pupils.

- Utilizing the services and talents of para-professional personnel recruited from the neighborhood of the school.

The structure which will house the experimental school will be unique in itself. Emanating from a center classroom building, which will be a three-story rectangular building built around a two-story court, will be an arrangement of units connected by corridor links. These units, which include gymnasium blocks, an auditorium with a full proscenium stage, games areas and an athletic field, will all be separated from the school proper so that they may be readily available for after-hours community use.

JHS 65 Book Honors Kennedy

The yearbook staff of Charles Sumner JHS 65, 46 Forsyth Street, has voted to dedicate its yearbook to Robert F. Kennedy, it was announced by Irving H. Fine, principal.

The late senator is to be memorialized for his sincere and deep interest in the welfare of all human beings.