

edged. Among the reasons cited for supporting one-room schools is “a reawakened national concern for some faded educational verities, among them the close teacher-pupil contact.”

Apparently educators did not feel that graduates of one-room schools were given as good an education as those from a traditional school. This accusation has proven to be false according to recent studies. *Time* reports, “To the surprise of many educators, the youngsters tend to score handsomely when they move on to high school.”

I had the opportunity to teach in a multi-grade classroom and observed other advantages. Students there were better able to work on their own, since the teacher could not always be there to help them immediately. Reading skills also appeared to be more highly developed.

Perhaps parents who send their children to a multi-grade classroom school feel that they are settling for second best when they cannot provide a traditional school. These recent findings should put such feelings to rest.

□■□

MTV-A Favorite in Public School Cafeteria

The *Plains Baptist Challenger* reported on a newspaper article about how a public school solved its problem of keeping students under control in the lunchroom. The principal set up a large screen in the cafeteria on which the latest rock videos are displayed courtesy of MTV (Music Television).

The editor of the *Plains Baptist Challenger* writes concerning MTV: “MTV is to be found on the cable TV channels across America and it isn’t fit for a dog, much less human beings. . . . No parent, under any circumstances should let their children ever watch this punk dirty rock. It

is incredible that any school system would set up television screens in the cafeteria, so that the teens can watch this garbage.”

Of course we are happy that such things do not happen in any of our schools. This reminds us of the reason we have our own schools: that our children are kept separate from the world. While it might have been safe for Christians in public schools years ago when nothing else was available, there is no doubt that the atmosphere of public schools has greatly changed.

Before we pat ourselves on the backs for this one though, how much of this “garbage” is being

discussed by our students who school buildings, but in how many
listen to it either on the sly or hearts is this music echoing
with permission? Rock is not while Christian lessons are being
being broadcasted through our taught? Brian Dykstra



from the TEACHERS' LOUNGE

Have you ever wondered about the rationale for including "Band" in the course offerings of a school? In our high school in Grand Rapids, band meets for 50 minutes every day of the week. It's a full-credit course. In many of our grade schools, band is offered as a two or three-session a week option to students in 5th through 9th grades. Sometimes those bands may meet during noon hours; but no doubt other sessions are held during "class" time. Whatever the particular circumstances, in the very nature of the case one must take band in stead of doing something else. So, again, the question: should instrumental music have that kind of place in our schools? And, if it does, should students be encouraged to participate in it? A band director in the Teachers' Lounge suggests answers to these questions. Here's Mrs. Gail Worries, director of band in our South Holland (Illinois) Protestant Reformed School:

School Band: An Enrichment of the Curriculum

Gail Worries

Their eyes are looking up at me. Their black cases are resting on their laps. At my suggestion the band students open their cases carefully, as many questions arise in their minds. This is the first day of band lessons. A thrill goes through me at the thought of teaching them something they know little about. I often think of taping these first few sessions to play back to them at the end