

News from Ray Rowland
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What is Gray Campus School? Who may attend? How can I enroll my child? These are a few of the questions often asked Dr. A. H. Schelske, principal of St. Cloud State College's laboratory school.

The school is owned and operated by the state to provide practical experience for college students preparing for a career in education. It gives future teachers an opportunity to observe, practice teach and experiment with typical classes of pupils. Classes are conducted from kindergarten through the ninth grade.

"We limit our classes to 25 children," Dr. Schelske explained. "They come from all kinds of homes in the St. Cloud area. With the exception of 10 pupils enrolled in our cerebral palsy unit, these children are comparable to students in any elementary or junior high school."

A waiting list has been adopted as a fair way to admit children to the school, since the demand always exceeds the available openings in the elementary grades, the principal said. However, a few openings in seventh, eighth and ninth grades are available for next fall.

"The only exception is when a child has older brothers or sisters already in the school," he added. "We give such cases priority because we feel it is important for these children to have the same experience."

If a child attending Gray Campus School is from a closed school district, his district pays the State College Board an amount equivalent to the per pupil cost required to educate him in St. Cloud public schools. If a child is from an open school district, his parents pay a \$3 activity fee and \$3 tuition per year.

"Our teachers have above-average preparation and superior teaching ability,"

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Dr. Schelske said. "Demonstrating for college education classes keeps them on their toes."

The school library contains 14,500 volumes, 400 filmstrips, 2,000 pamphlets and 75 periodicals. Mrs. Sue Moss, school librarian, tries to make the library an extension of every classroom. Junior high school students may use the main college library. Concerts, lectures and other cultural events at the college also are open to the children.

Recently added to the school was a \$283,413 wing housing a regulation size gymnasium and allied arts area. Included in the addition are dressing rooms, two physical education offices, two conference rooms and an equipment storage area. The allied arts general shop contains facilities for wood working, metal working, electricity, crafts, graphic arts and drawing. Adjoining the shop are an art studio and ceramics room. Completed last fall, the wing is now fully equipped.

The goals of the laboratory school faculty are to develop children to be creative and resourceful, to think critically and to take responsibility for their actions, Dr. Schelske said.

"We're more concerned with helping children learn how to apply information than simply accumulating facts," he commented. "Attitudes and values determine how a child will use his knowledge."