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Park Forest South: A Place to Learn

New Community Enterprises

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At Park Forest South learning is a real priority. It's an adventure from pre-school through the university.

**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

Youngsters live and learn in kindergarten through sixth grade at Hickory Elementary School in Park Forest South, an "open school" with a modified open architectural design and a quality academic approach. The concepts of an individualized study program are adapted to fit the needs of each child, enabling him to move at his own pace and in a way that is distinctly his. Team teaching emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach with a staff consisting of a master teacher, certified teachers and aides.

Project Impact is an innovative educational program designed to provide a Human Resource Center at Hickory School. Staffed with a team of master teachers, certified teachers, and teacher aides, the program is designed to assist children (directly and indirectly) to be effective learners in their instructional role and to help parents be more effective in their parental role.

**JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

Ground has been broken for Deer Creek Junior High School located at Blackhawk and Olmstead. A semi-open concept with emphasis on flexible space will mark the Junior High School which will have a 1,000 student capacity. This is a cooperative venture with the Park District and School District each purchasing one half of the land for the school. In the planning stages also is a new Crete Monee Senior High School. The principal has already been hired and will be working with architects on the educational aspects of the new school.

Standard basic curricula are offered at Hubbard Trail Junior High School and Crete Monee High School. Special education classes and rich extra-curricular and athletic programs provide learning experiences beyond regular classes.

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY**

It is the first state-supported degree-granting institution of higher learning in the entire south suburban area. Governors State University is fast gaining recognition as one of the most creative, experimental institutions of higher education in Illinois.

Here in the heart of Park Forest South, the new 753-acre campus has already influenced physical design for the town while also exercising a strong influence on the community life styles. The experimental, flexible, innovative learning center recently moved into its first permanent facility. Four colleges are housed under one roof "along an open academic street" 1,137 feet in length. An enrollment of 10,000 students is expected by the year 1980.

Academic programs in four college divisions—Business and Public Service, Cultural Studies, Environmental and Applied Sciences, and Human Learning and Development—lead to the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees. Students attend upgraded eight-week courses, work at their own pace towards goals determined in cooperation with the faculty, and build a permanent record of achievements only.

GSU welcomed over 700 students to its first semester in September, 1971, and enrollment is currently 2,500 students. This is a commuter university. The average student age is twenty-seven; many students are employed full or part time; some are married, with families.

Education will continue to grow with Park Forest South. New facilities and programs will come to be as the needs arise. The goal will be to keep pace with community expansion . . . to serve the community's educational demands as fully and effectively tomorrow as today.

Basic educational concepts are vital to Park Forest South and they will continue to evolve with changing students and times. Predictably the educational community will soon be exercising leadership in education as well as in community affairs. This lively exchange, coupled with a wealth of talent, strong community involvement and service will insure a bright future for Park Forest South . . . a place to learn.