

Training program

Through experimentation and research our instructors have created a training program laden with workable techniques and methods. There are no plans which cannot be altered or cast aside. Our whole program and its success is based upon continual experimentation, research and revision. No set of materials or techniques is sacred and flexibility in programing has allowed us to individualize our training to fit any given trainee.

Included in the many varied approaches used by our staff are such workable tools as individualized instruction, grouping, simultaneous instruction (where a basic instructor teaches right in the vocational shop specific allied skills, i.e., a math instructor coupled with the blueprint reading teacher for welders), released time instruction (certain boys are released from a vocational area for basic education work). In our current training year we will be making more use of machined or programed instruction as well as our "center concept" of basic education training. (Our "Center Concept" places all students functioning at virtually any level in a 2-3 room complex manned by 3-5 instructors. Surrounded with the latest teaching devices and materials our instructors are better able to meet practically any student need or deficiency.)

Naturally we place heavy emphasis upon the use of audio-visual aids and self-instructional materials because of the motivational value (built in success) that they have for our trainees. Each year has found our staff engaged more and more in the development of teaching materials and aids. This is partly due to our willingness for professional growth and our desire to remain ahead of the pack. This has also been necessary because of the newness and uniqueness of our program plus the fact that quality materials have not always been available. By bringing the trainees to a well equipped center (rather than the materials and instructor to the trainee) we have been able to economize cost at the same time we are expanding educational offering.

Vocational education

The vocational education phase of the Mahoning Valley Vocational School project is designed to provide the opportunity for all trainees to develop a saleable skill in their respective vocational areas as assigned. The philosophy of Mahoning Valley Vocational School with respect to vocational training, and all related areas, is that of accepting the referred trainees as they are, determining their abilities and attitudes, and to work with them, on an individual basis if necessary, to enable them to take full advantage of their abilities and develop their potentials to the highest degree possible during the time they are enrolled in the school.

We realize, of course, that it may be unreasonable to expect each trainee to progress to the point of being a completely employable individual. In cases of very low ability, lack of aptitudes and emotional instability, a "satisfactory progress" rating could very well be assigned when improved social adjustment and work attitudes result.

The vocational curriculum is structured to simulate on-the-job working conditions whenever possible; thus, the training is composed of both skill development and improvement in work habits.

We are training at the present in the following fourteen areas:

Name of area:	Number of sections
Electrical appliance repairman -----	3
Auto body repairman -----	2
Auto mechanic -----	2
Auto service station attendant mechanic -----	1
Baker, hotel and restaurant -----	1 ²
Accounting clerk -----	1
General office clerk -----	3
Cook, hotel and restaurant -----	4
Landscape gardener -----	4
Draftsman (entry) -----	5
Computer and peripheral equipment operator -----	5
Maintenance man, building -----	2
Production machine operator -----	6
Welding -----	6

¹ This course is only offered in the evenings.

² One section of this area is being operated during evening hours.