

THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649620760

The Junior High School by G. Vernon Bennett

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G. VERNON BENNETT

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By

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WARWICK & YORK, Inc.
1919

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

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PREFACE

The author is frank to admit that this book is not a complete treatise on the junior high school. To write such a treatise there would have to be available a vast mass of facts, statistics, and experimental data about the subject. The junior high school is too new an institution to have had time and opportunity for the accumulation of such scientific material. There has been an insistent demand for a reorganization of our school system. It did not seem as if those demands could be met under the 8-4 plan of grouping grades. There arose—in response to the demand—a new institution, the junior high school, created to carry out the reorganization.

It was not as if an old institution had been asked to do new work. Not at all. It was pretty well decided beforehand what was needed to be done. The problem was, can the present organizations do the things needed? Some educators said, yes. Others said, no, and proceeded to create a new school to do the work. Since then Professor Johnston's statement that "the junior high school movement is sweeping the country" has become literally true.

There have been some precedents in Europe and in this country for the creation of this school. These fore-runners are briefly described by the author. It is not pretended, however, that these were real junior high schools.

This book is put forth as a guide for the study of the junior high school movement. It is full of suggestions, full of arguments, full of enthusiastic hopes. It is put forth as a pathfinder. The author has necessarily drawn largely on his personal observations in his own schools at Pomona; but

he has also had the pleasure of visiting the junior high schools in Los Angeles, Berkeley, Detroit, Houston, and Salt Lake City.

The author wishes to thank the many superintendents who have responded to his requests for information. He wishes especially to thank Dr. David P. Barrows, formerly Dean of the Faculties of the University of California, now Major, Chief of the Intelligence Department, Philippine Islands, and Prof. E. E. Lewis and Prof. T. H. Briggs, of Teachers' College, Columbia, for valuable suggestions, criticism and inspiration. For faults in the book the author wishes himself solely and alone to be held responsible.

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