

A GENERAL STATEMENT OF IDEALS

IN starting the Peninsula School, we had for guiding principle the belief that children, no less than adults, learn through doing. We have felt that undue emphasis has been placed on the mere acquisition of information and not enough on the ability to apply what one knows to actual life situations.

To our way of thinking, education means the natural growth and unfoldment of all the faculties. With this in mind, the school seeks to provide situations and environments that engender activities of many different kinds. We make a special effort to cultivate the hand as well as the head, encouraging creative expression however crude the form it may at first assume. We want each child to learn the secret of his own personality and to acquire satisfactory outlets for his physical and emotional life.

Since a human being cannot be considered complete unless he can live harmoniously with his fellows, great stress is also laid on the social relationships within the school groups. By studying each child and his reaction to other children and by creating situations which make for growth along these lines, the school impresses the child with a sense of social responsibility, of tolerance and generosity towards others.

To-day ethical standards are shifting; old restrictions have given way and society has not yet built new ones in their place. Young people are faced very early with the burden of self direction. How can they meet this demand unless they have had training in initiative and responsibility, and have approached society's need for cooperation through actual first hand experiences?

In spite of shifting standards, we know that moral fibre is the same today as it was yesterday, and that without self-discipline the most brilliant intellect can achieve but little. We therefore earnestly wish for our children that each one might face the world honestly and establish within himself an inner integrity to the end that he may meet all the relationships of life adequately and with joy.