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ANNOUNCEMENT OF
Training School

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KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN
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ANNOUNCEMENT OF
TRAINING DEPARTMENT
Faculty of the Western State Normal School

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Training School

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*Amelia Anderson ..................................... Second Grade
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.................................................. Seventh Grade

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Esther Braley, A. B. .................................... Librarian
Anna L. French .......................................... Assistant Librarian
Katherine Newton ...................................... Secretary
Katherine Shean ........................................ Assistant Secretary

* On leave of absence for 1909-10.
PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE
Training School of the Western State Normal

Scope of the School

The new Training School building of the Western State Normal School is now well under way. It will be completed and ready for use next September when the public schools open. The Normal grades in the Vine Street School will no longer be maintained, but the Training School will accommodate thirty children in each grade. The kindergarten and first seven grades will be opened this year; the eighth grade will be added the year following. There is already a strong preparatory department giving the equivalent of high school work, in connection with the Normal department. This means that a child entering any grade, now or later, may continue in the Training School through the eighth grade, when he may enter the city high school, without examination, or if he so desires, the Normal preparatory which admits to the regular Normal certificate courses.

The Training School will be maintained for two purposes,—first, to conduct the best grade work possible under the most favorable conditions of a fine modern building, thoroughly equipped, with teachers of the best training in charge of each grade; second, to give to the students in the Normal, who are to go into the grades of public schools the following year as teachers, the advantages of work and observation under expert guidance. The results of Normal Training schools show many distinct advantages for the children. Some of these are: first, direct contact with and instruction under efficient critic teachers of training and experience, who do much of the teaching of children and supervise all of the student teachers; second, the individual attention given to the children, owing to the small number in the classes and the many helpers; third, the excellent teaching of the special subjects such as music, drawing, manual training and physical training, all of these being under the daily supervision of the special teachers of these branches in the Normal department;
fourth, the care for the physical well being which is secured by direct attention to physical training, first-class equipment for play and for manual work, by the greater freedom and activity made possible where several teachers are responsible, and by relaxation due to frequent changes of room and occupation. Children who have completed the first eight grades in the better normal schools are found unusually well trained for the work of the high school.

The building is located south of the main administration building, commanding fine views of the city and the beautiful grove south and west of the building. The environment is a privilege in itself, and one which must exert unconsciously a strong influence upon the lives of the children. The building may be reached either by the Oakwood cars from the rear, by the walk at the southeast end of the grounds, by the steps from Walnut street, or from Cedar street by the new two track railway, belonging to the Normal School. Most physicians strongly advise hill climbing as an exercise for growing children. That the children like it is evidenced by the numbers seen nearly every day after school, racing up and down for fun. There is, however, no necessity for the climb for any for whom it may seem unadvisable. Provision will be made for some older person to see to the loading of cars at the foot of the hill during the half hour before sessions, so that no anxiety need be felt as to the use of the cars, which will be at the service of the children and the patrons of the school.

The building itself is one of the best of its kind in the country. It is of fire proof construction throughout, as are all the Normal buildings. It is a structure 118 feet in length by 100 feet in width, with two stories and a basement, which is so little below the ground level that the rooms are among the pleasantest in the building. The entire building is heated by a system of direct and indirect radiation with the fan system of forced air currents insuring perfect ventilation at all times. The toilets are absolutely sanitary, with marble walls and modern plumbing, with hot and cold water. The halls are provided with sanitary drinking fountains.
One of the pleasantest features of the building is the large central rotunda, off which on the first floor opens the office, kindergarten room, library, and first, second and third grade departments. At one side in this hallway is a large brick fireplace which it is believed will be of real value in the social functions of the school. A small stage occupies the west end of the rotunda, with a property room back of it. The hall will thus provide adequate seating capacity for the entire school for morning assemblies and other social gatherings. From the second floor a good view can be had of the stage below, through the large rotunda opening, which is securely railed. Off this upper hall open department rooms for fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades, toilets, a rest room for teachers, and a study room for the use of the Normal students.

The basement contains a play room, 25 feet wide by 48 feet long, which will be equipped with flying rings, climbing ropes, horizontal ladders, swings, and light apparatus. All the gymnasium work for the lower grades will be conducted here, while the older boys and girls may have the advantages of the Normal gymnasium, where swimming pool, shower baths, etc., will also be at the disposal of Training School classes. In the basement, too, are a large kitchen,—which will be filled with low tables and sink for the use of primary grades as well as those of usual height for the use of the upper grades,—a dining room, sewing room, clay modeling room, a large manual training room, a dark room for work in photography, and a room for printing and bookbinding. It is believed that these rooms will be the centers of the school activities. The training school will endeavor to have the children carry on as many real occupations as possible, relating much of the work of the various subjects of the curriculum to the handwork. Modern education recognizes the value of practical handwork in developing qualities of independence, concentration and persistence, as well as general practical intelligence and morality. It is also recognized that with the lessening variety of home duties for the children the necessity has increased for manual activities in the schools.
There is ample play ground of the natural and best kind in the woods and on the hillside near the building. Play ground apparatus,—swings, pole ball, sand piles, etc.—will be provided at once, and every effort made to encourage healthful sport, directed and undirected.

A plot of half an acre has just been secured near the grounds for use as a school garden, which will be an important feature of the nature study work of the school.

The department rooms for each grade consists of a large grade room, approximately 25 feet by 35 feet with two smaller recitation rooms opening from this, in which small groups of children may be taught by training students under the direction of the critic. In each department will be a sink, with hot and cold water, while the equipment will include a gas plate, work bench, sand table, etc., as well as the regulation desks and chairs. This will mean that much manual work can be brought into the regular class room. One of the class rooms off the seventh and eighth grade rooms is to be fitted as a laboratory.

The kindergarten room is ideally located in the southeast corner where it will have sunlight throughout the year. The windows of this room, the library, and the first grade room have been set very low to permit the smallest children to have the views from them. The kindergarten has its own toilet opening from it.

The library is a large light room with south exposure. It contains a fireplace which suggests many a cozy "story hour" for the children. It will be equipped with juvenile tables and chairs, and it is hoped to place there one of the best children's libraries in the state.

The general equipment of the building is to be the most modern. All the desks, as well as the separate chairs, will be adjustable to the height of the pupils. Much of the tendency to spinal curvature, eye weakness, and other physical defects in children can be traced directly to ill-fitting school seats. Every care is being taken in the selection of the school furniture.

Children will be admitted to the grades for which they have qualified in the public schools, on presentation of
report cards properly signed. There will be no tuition charged. Pupils will furnish their own text books.

It is very desirable that applications for the coming year be made at once. The number of children to be admitted to each grade will be limited to thirty. Candidates for entrance will be considered in order of their application and places reserved, preference being given to those already in the Training School at Vine street. Application blanks should be filled out at once and sent either to the critics or supervisor of the Training School or to the Western State Normal School.

There will be the usual four weeks of summer school, with morning sessions, during the coming summer. Announcement concerning this will be made later.
CALENDAR

Announcement for 1909-1910

Sunday, June 20....................Baccalaureate Address
Monday, June 21.....................Class Day
Tuesday, June 22....................Commencement

Summer Term

Monday, June 28....................Summer Term Begins
Friday, July 23.....................Training Department Closes

Fall Term

Monday, September 13..........Training Department Opens
Monday, September 27.............Normal Opens
Basketry and Pottery Made by Fifth Grade Children