

The overall goal is to teach pupils an understanding of numbers that will function in everyday affairs. It is our hope to teach more and more children how to use mathematical ideas easily and naturally to solve real inschool and out-of-school problems. We further hope to help more children to develop skills and knowledge that will be permanent.

Part 11 -- Handwriting
Olive Wear -- Supervisor of Penmanship

Mr. O. L. Rogers, the first penmanship supervisor, began his work in the Fort Wayne Public School in 1909. In the fall of 1926 Miss Ida Koons succeeded him. Olive G. Wear became her successor in the fall of 1945.

Both Mr. Rogers and Miss Koons held to high standards and consequently our schools have long been proud of the accomplishments in this method of expression.

During the past decade the elementary schools have been concerned with a reformulation of curriculum objectives and practices. The highly formalized teaching of handwriting has given way to a more functional approach. This in no way minimizes the need for good handwriting but directs instruction to the needs of individuals being taught.

In 1941 manuscript writing was accepted for the first and second grades. This form of writing is the more natural medium by which the child can express himself and satisfy his desire to write. Manuscript writing is easier than cursive writing for the young child to learn because the letters are simple and easily formed. The letters are familiar to him because they resemble the print he sees in books. This form of writing is more suitable because it produces a minimum of physical and mental strain and because it does not demand such a high degree of muscular coordination.

The transition from manuscript to cursive begins in the latter half of the second year. During the third year the child learns to use the cursive forms in all his handwriting activities. The use of pen and ink is introduced at the beginning of the fourth year. Special instruction is given through the first six grades to help the child to write easily, legibly, and with sufficient speed to suit his purpose. In two of the junior high schools the writing program is continued through the eighth grade.

Legible handwriting helps to convey ideas accurately. It improves the appearance of school papers. It contributes to better spelling, composition, as well as to written work in social studies, science, and other areas of the curriculum. Therefore our goals are to awaken in pupils a consciousness of the importance of good writing, to assist each pupil in practice, and help each pupil in judging his own progress continually and in analyzing his deficiencies.