

CURRICULUM NEWS

Excerpts from the Mathematics Subcommittee Report to the Senior High School Curriculum Committee Meeting, held October 26-27, 1967

The Senior High School Mathematics Subcommittee is conducting a study of materials which might be suitable for use in a revised Mathematics 31 course. The materials being tried include

Vectors and Matrices, by Elliott (Holt, Rinehart and Winston)
Calculus, by Elliott (Holt, Rinehart and Winston)
Analytic Trigonometry, by Bruce (Pergamon)
Trigonometry With Tables, by Welchons (Ginn)
Mathematics of Matrices, by Davis (Blaisdell)

The Subcommittee has not yet decided upon the nature of the revised Mathematics 31 course. Consideration is being given to developing a course consisting of a half year of trigonometry plus a half year of calculus or linear algebra.

The Subcommittee has proposed to the Senior High School Curriculum Committee that the senior high school mathematics courses consist of three sequences of programs:

1. Mathematics 10, 20, 30, and 31 would be the matriculation sequence and would be studied by approximately 35 percent of the students entering Grade X.
2. Mathematics 13, 23, and 33, which would be studied by about 35 percent of the students entering Grade X, would be less rigorous, would emphasize applications to a greater extent, and would treat essentially the same topics as Mathematics 10, 20 and part of 30, although the emphasis on combinatorial mathematics might be greater.
3. Mathematics 15 and 25 would be essentially the same as the present programs taught in a few centers. The content would be flexible and would include units of mathematical topics plus units on application of mathematics to business, vocational subjects, physical and social sciences.

All courses presently authorized other than Mathematics 10, 20, 30 and 31 would be deleted.

The proposal of the Mathematics Subcommittee was accepted in principle by the Senior High School Curriculum Committee.

Excerpts from the Mathematics Subcommittee Report
to the Elementary School Curriculum Committee Meeting

Ten new series are being evaluated. It was recommended that no new textbooks be authorized for September, 1968, as the Subcommittee wished to take a closer look at the various programs. In the present situation committee members felt that they should not be hurried into making a choice.

Comparative methods of evaluating any series of books were discussed. Some members of the Subcommittee had felt that classroom experimentation with the various series was superfluous and took too much time since most of the committee evaluation was both more efficient and time-saving. However, discussion in the Elementary School Curriculum Committee meeting appeared to favor classroom experimentation, especially if a program represented a substantial departure in method from the existing courses.

Mathematics - a tentative agreement that
two and two make four.
