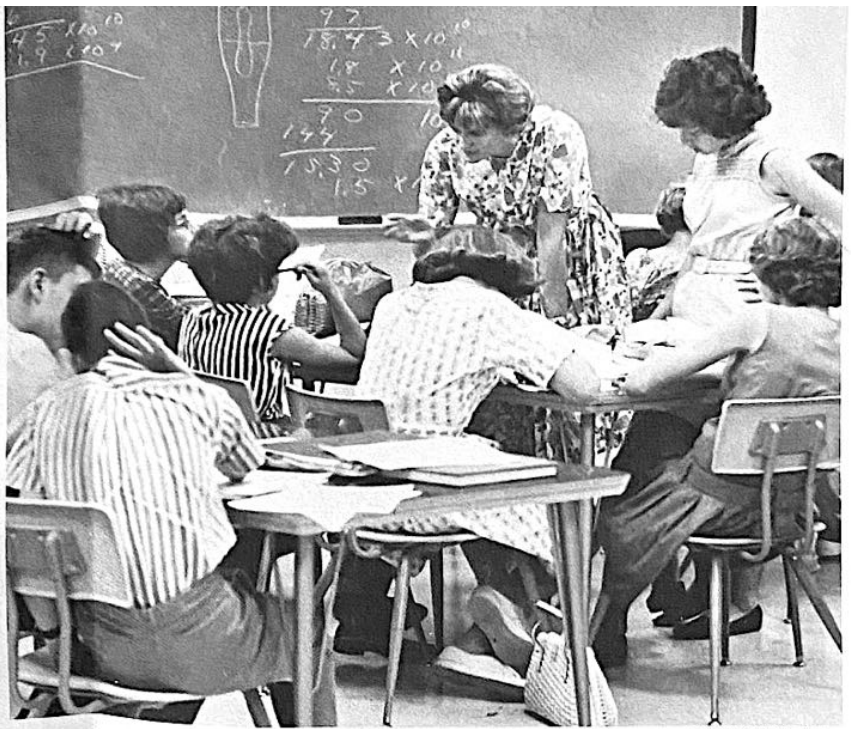




PHOTO REPORT

A new idea in education is being tested in south Florida. The idea: to provide a complete education—from preschool to Ph.D. degree—all on one campus. And that's not all that's new or different about this school.



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Young teachers, fresh ideas reign at Nova High.

WHERE A "SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE" IS HOLDING CLASSES TODAY



Students come to the school from as far as 30 miles away. All are volunteers, and spend 11 months of the year in classes, with only four weeks off in August.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

"The school of the future"—

That's what some educators are calling the South Florida Education Center, which is off to a flying start in this resort city on the Atlantic Ocean.

It was only two years ago that the center got under way. It won't be finished until 1970, at the earliest.

Yet already you hear predictions that this daring new type of school may revolutionize public education all over the United States.

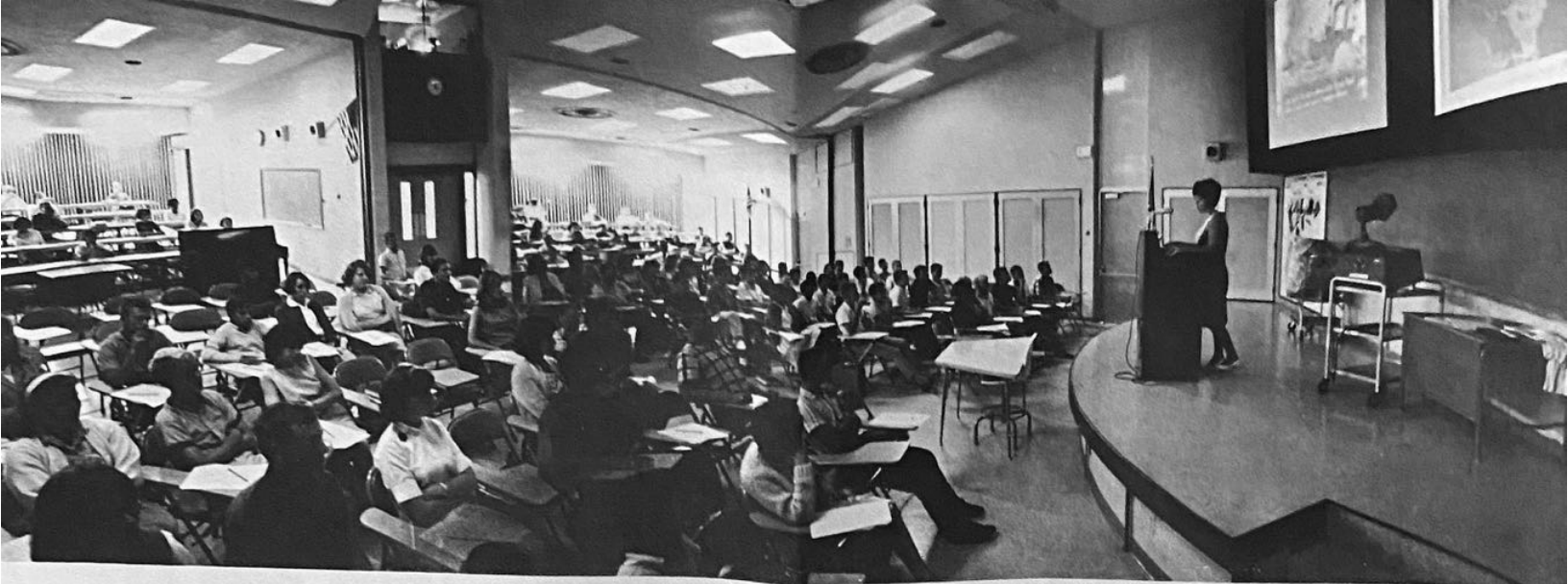
What's new and different about it?

The big innovation is this: Here it is planned that a student will be able to get his entire education—from preschool classes at age 3 right through grade school, high school and college to a doctor of philosophy degree—all on one campus, and mostly at public expense.

Already in operation on this campus of more than 500 acres are a high school and a junior college, both opened in 1963. An elementary school is to open next September, to be followed by preschool classes some time later.

All these are public schools, built by fast-growing Broward County, which includes Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood and Pompano Beach and now has a total population of nearly half a million.

The final unit of the education cen-



Modern facilities include lecture halls seating up to 200 students. Halls can be divided by automatic folding doors into three smaller rooms. Teacher can show movies, TV, or slides on giant screens by flipping switches on control board at podium.



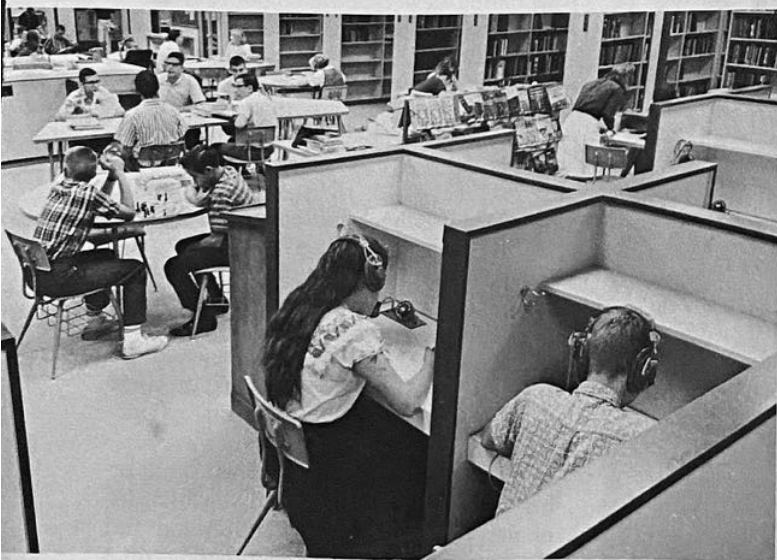
Each teacher has his own desk in office space from which students are barred. There teachers work on lessons with minimum of interruptions.



Nonteaching technician sets up laboratory equipment for classes, freeing teacher from such duties.



Clerical staff keeps records, prints tests, handles much of paper work, leaving the teachers free to teach.



Nova has "resource centers," instead of libraries, where modern materials such as tape recordings supplement books.



Small groups often study without teachers in conference rooms. Emphasis is on individual student responsibility.

"SCHOOL OF FUTURE"

ter will be a privately financed university of advanced technology which is scheduled to admit its first graduate students in 1967 and its first undergraduate students in 1970.

Name: "Nova," for "new." At a time when the idea of "educational parks" or "school villages" is spreading across the country as a new approach to public education, this center is to go far beyond other such projects.

But that's only part of the story.

Nearly everything here is new or different. The schools are even named "Nova"—the Latin word for "new."

One difference is apparent at once to a midsummer visitor: Nova High School students are still attending classes at a time when most youngsters in this country are on vacation.

Nova is an 11-months-a-year high school. Students get only four weeks off each year—in August. But they don't graduate any earlier than at other schools. Result is they get more schooling, in total time of attendance.

Buildings and equipment at Nova High School are ultramodern. They provide the latest in teaching gadgets and techniques.

Closed-circuit television links all classrooms. Instead of old-fashioned libraries, there are "resource centers" where, in addition to books, there are files of video tapes which can play back classroom lectures—with pictures as well as sound. Booths with tape recorders are provided for language practice.

Classes are held in air-conditioned buildings, grouped around an open area under roof, where students eat lunch and relax. Many classrooms can be divided and subdivided by automatic folding doors to accommodate classes of varying sizes.

Modern means, old end. All these new fashioned gadgets, say the center's founders, are used for an old-fashioned purpose: to give a sound basic education. All high-school students must study English, science, mathematics, social studies and a foreign language each year.

There is a no-nonsense attitude here toward extracurricular activities, such as dances and clubs. Very little emphasis is placed on athletics.

"We have radical ideas here," says one official with a smile. "The teachers teach and the students learn."

Students are not graded competitively, but are allowed to proceed as fast as they can in each subject.

Nova's 1,750 high-school students appear to like the new system.

Small snack bars are used at Nova High instead of the large cafeterias found in most schools. Resultant savings helped pay for much of schools' modern equipment. Students eat lunches and relax in a large open area in center of complex.



—USN&WR Photos



"I think this school is terrific," says Jack Giampapa, 14, an eighth-grade student. "Here, if you fall back in some classes, it's no disgrace. You just simply work harder. And, at the same time, you may be way ahead in some other class."

It took a little while, he admits, to learn to like the idea of being in school 11 months a year. He says:

"When the other kids start their vacations and are out having a blast, it's a little hard. But pretty soon they're bored and broke—and we're not."

All of Nova High School's students are volunteers. Some ride in buses or cars from as far as 30 miles away. They pay a slight extra fee, mostly for transportation, to attend this school. But all economic, social and cultural levels of the community are represented. It is racially integrated.

Parents are eager to get their children into the Nova schools. More than 3,000 applications have been submitted for the 750 places that there will be in the new elementary school in September.

How it all began. The idea of the Nova school system was born in 1959, when the closing of Forman Naval Air Field by the U. S. Defense Department made a 550-acre tract available for school use.

Many people here thought the county needed more than just another new high school. Some influential citizens began

to promote the idea of a single campus where local students could get a complete education.

Local businessmen were impressed by arguments that a strong center for graduate scientific study would eventually attract industrial complexes similar to those surrounding the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology.

"Brains attract dollars," is the idea behind this.

What finally evolved was a co-operative arrangement between the Broward County board of public instruction and the 50-member organization of private citizens who formed the South Florida Education Center.

The county agreed to build and operate a public elementary school, a public high school and—in co-operation with the State—a public junior college, all on the same big campus.

The role of the private organization is to build and run the university—as a private institution—and to maintain an advisory interest in the entire education center.

The new university is to be called Nova University of Advanced Technology. Its backers hope it will become known as "the MIT of the South."

A campaign has begun to raise 53 million dollars to finance it.

Dr. Warren J. Winstead, the president of the university, has already started a re-

cruiting campaign for outstanding scholars—especially in mathematics and science—to serve on its faculty.

Unlike most universities, Nova is starting with a graduate division first—in 1967—because Dr. Winstead believes that facilities for graduate research will help to attract better students and faculty members.

An ungraded system. The undergraduate division, when it opens in 1970, will operate on an ungraded system similar to that in Nova High School. Students will be promoted to higher classes whenever they are ready, even in midsemester.

"We think this system has wonderful potential," says Stuart Synnestvedt, development director of the Nova schools.

"Our students will have more freedom, more opportunity and more responsibility than students in almost any other school. When they leave Nova, they'll be years ahead of most other graduates."

The plan is to hold total enrollment at the privately operated Nova University to about 1,500 topnotch students.

Broward County Junior College, which now has some 3,000 students, will continue as a public institution.

It's still too early for statistics to show how Nova High School students are doing in comparison with their previous performances in other schools or with youngsters in other schools.

Nearly everybody at Nova, however, including the pupils, expresses confidence that the new school is producing better results.

Nova teachers—averaging under 30 years of age—are excited about the challenge offered by the new system. Many teach in teams of three, with classes ranging in size from six to 200.

The teachers are especially happy about being freed from many of the clerical tasks that usually take so much of a teacher's time. Here, a sizable staff of clerks and technicians takes care of much administrative paper work, prints prepared tests and lessons and copes with student problems.

This leaves teachers free to teach.

Educators throughout the country are watching the Nova schools with interest. The Ford Foundation is backing the educational experiment with more than half a million dollars in grants.

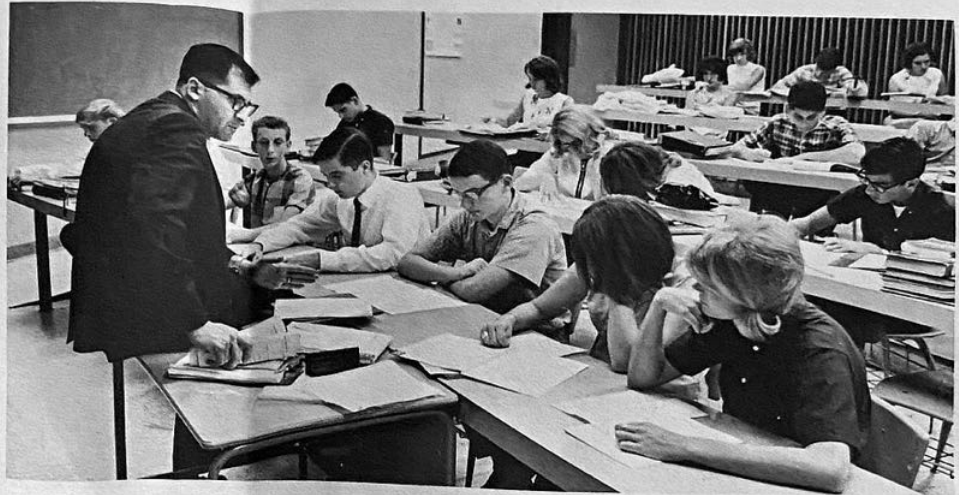
Nova officials are the first to admit that many of their ideas are not original. They have borrowed freely from schools throughout the country. But this school, they say, is unique because so many new ideas are being tried here in one place.

If the ideas work as hoped, the South Florida Education Center could become a model for other communities to follow.

Youngsters stand as the National Anthem is being played during a daily television program which is broadcast on the school's closed-circuit network. Students write scripts, act, direct performances and help to run the TV system.



—USN&WR Photos



Spanish class concentrates on a lesson. Every student is required each year to take a foreign language, as well as English, science, mathematics and social studies.



Newest techniques at Nova include "academic games" which pit scholars against each other in fields such as mathematics.

Use of individual tape recordings in language work is typical of Nova High School's "new look" in education.

