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HIGH POINTS IN THE  

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PARKERSBURG  

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SCHOOLS



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# *HIGH POINTS IN THE PARKERSBURG SCHOOLS*

## *IN GENERAL*

The enrollment in the Parkersburg Schools for the year 1917-18 will be approximately 4800 pupils. 160 teachers are employed including special supervisors of Music, Drawing and Writing. The Parkersburg schools are recognized by everyone as being among the very best in West Virginia, in fact many people regard them as being the best in the state. They also take very high rank in the schools of the country as a whole. Progressive things done in the Parkersburg schools are frequently referred to in educational periodicals and magazines with a nation-wide circulation. The erection of the new high school building has made it possible to relieve congestion all over the city and practically no where are the schools over-crowded at the present time. The standard of admission to the teaching force has been very materially raised within the last two years. No one without a normal school diploma or a high school diploma with two years successful experience in teaching can be employed as a regular teacher. Sufficient inducements are given in the way of additional salary for teachers who attend summer school each summer. In this way teachers are kept alive and progressive. During the summer of 1917 one or more Parkersburg teachers were in attendance at the following institutions: West Virginia University, Ohio University, Ohio State University, Columbia University, Harvard University, University of Chicago, University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota, University of Pittsburgh, University of Illinois, and others. In addition to this, each teacher is required to take a course in University extension work covering two hours a week for 15 weeks of the year for which college credit is given. A member of the faculty of West Virginia University and Ohio University are giving courses in English and History. Also a series of city teachers' institutes is maintained. At these institutes the most eminent educational leaders of the country are the lecturers. The discipline and spirit of the different graded schools is of the highest order. Difficult



cases in discipline are practically unknown. The finest spirit of cooperation between teachers and pupils is evident. The buildings and equipment generally will rank far above the buildings and equipment of other towns the size of Parkersburg. The high school building and a number of the grade schools are the envy of many cities very much larger than Parkersburg.

### *ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS*

Departmental work is found in all the graded schools of more than six rooms. The percentage of pupils who are regularly promoted is far above the average. Fewer pupils who are behind their grade are found in Parkersburg than almost any other place in the country. Nearly all the larger schools are equipped with playground apparatus. The most modern and up-to-date systems of heating and ventilation are used and the sanitary conditions are practically perfect.

### *JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL*

In September, 1917 Parkersburg's first Junior High School was established. This comprises the greater part of the 7th and 8th grades in the city. 22 teachers are employed in this building and it has an enrollment of 625 pupils. Both pupils and patrons are very loud in their praises of the work of the new Junior High. The work is thoroughly departmentalized and special work is given in writing, drawing, manual training, cooking and sewing. This school is housed in the old high school building which was thoroughly renovated and brought up to date involving an expenditure of more than \$25,000.00.

### *HIGH SCHOOL*

Parkersburg's new high school building is the largest and finest in the state and is considered by prominent critics to be one of the finest high school buildings in the country. It is built in accordance with the most modern ideas and is a masterpiece of architecture and construction. It contains the finest and largest auditorium in the city, a beautiful and spacious gymnasium, exceptionally attractive lunchrooms, beautiful and well equipped laboratories. There are facilities for work in manual training covering cabinet making, mechanical drawing, wood turning, foundry, bench work, a Printing Department fully equip-



ped is also to be added soon. The home economics department includes a sewing department, cooking department, a model apartment and a laundry. The variety of subjects which are offered is broad enough to include the needs of almost everyone. All the standard courses in English, History, Mathematics, Modern and Ancient languages, are given. In modern languages Spanish is included. The commercial department is growing by leaps and bounds, and the graduates are in demand everywhere. In fact the demand is greater than the supply. The enrollment for the present year will be approximately 900 students. This includes students from every district in Wood county except one, and Ritchie County, Gilmer County, Calhoun County, Wirt County, Harrison County and various parts of Ohio. All of these pupils are glad to pay tuition for the privilege of attending Parkersburg High School. The faculty is composed of 34 members nearly all of whom are college graduates of standard colleges and universities. They are all specialists in their different departments and many of them do work that would be a credit to institutions higher than high school rank.

The campus contains 27.53 acres. The grounds have been laid off by one of the most expert landscape architects in the country and provision has been made for additional buildings in later years as well as for tennis courts, play grounds, experimental agriculture, flower gardens, walks, driveways, and a stadium which will seat 10,000 people.

#### *THE NIGHT SCHOOL*

The Parkersburg schools maintain the largest and most highly organized night school to be found anywhere in West Virginia. The present enrollment is 650. Large classes in the following subjects are held: Automobile Repairing, Business Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, Common Branches, Cooking, Dietetics, Mechanical Drawing, Business English, Electricity, Chemistry, French, Millinery, Dress making, Sewing, Penmanship, Salesmanship, Spanish, Stenography, Typewriting, Telegraphy, Wood Working, Physical Culture for girls. Sessions are held in the high school five nights a week.

Visitors from many other places come to Parkersburg to inspect the schools. Some of them come from a considerable distance.