

Science is now the order of business in the joint class-  
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room of Miss Mary Kendall and Gerald Towner. Since  
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science is his major subject, Towner is the teacher for the  
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moment. Miss Kendall will take over when Spanish is taught.

Much more individual help is possible for pupils under team teaching procedures.

Alan Poteete, left, bends over the desk in the front row to assist a pupil, while Robert Tracy assists a girl with reading.

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Santa Cruz Sentinel -17

## Team Teaching Hailed In Westlake



The Westlake School "teaching team" meets for an off-the-cuff comparison of notes between classes. From left are Gerald Towner, Mary Kendall, Alan Poteete and Robert

Tracy. Towner and Miss Kendall teach in the complex to the left and Poteete and Tracy handle the education of children in the right behind the movable wall.

**Forty-Five  
On Mission**

Team teaching, one of the newest adventures in education, has been instigated—and with great success—in the Santa Cruz city school system.

At the swank Westlake school on High street, the sixth grade pupils of Mary Kendall, Gerald Towner, Alan Poteete and Robert Tracy, are subjects of an education advent that has been hailed at other school systems in the state and Monterey Bay area as meeting several needs of the modern and growing school machine.

At times, the children are in small classes of 33 or 34. Next, they could be in a larger class of 66, and finally, if the subject warrants it, the total class of 142 or more students is taught in one big room.

When the first class starts at 9 o'clock in the morning, the old system of "departmentalized" education holds forth. One teacher has one class of 33 or 34 students. For two subjects—reading and math—the teacher can devote his or her entire time to the single class of pupils. But at 11 a.m., a big change in both class size and classroom appearance comes. The walls are moved.

In actuality, a curtain that has been separating two classes is drawn and the two are com-

have made four separate visits.

That the teachers like the system is attested in the sincere acclamation given by them. Miss Kendall declares it permits a teacher to instruct in her specialty and benefits the children.

It aids their children in their maturity inasmuch as it gives them a broader field of responsibility—receiving assignments from four teachers and being responsible to them instead of the former one teacher.

Dr. Edwin Hill, director of research at the city schools office, said team teaching does all of that, but it still does not take away the "individual association" of the homeroom teacher. The pupil still has a "home base" from which to operate—or a homeroom teacher to carry his problems to when he is troubled.

So well has the team teaching concept been received and developed at Westlake, the plans for the new Twin Bridges Elementary school include two major team teaching centers. Instruction facilities—not rooms—will be constructed at the Twin Bridges school so that team teaching can take on its full significance and the pupils receive greatest benefit from it.

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is drawn and the two are combined into one. Although there are two teachers for the "one" class, only one takes over—and teaches his or her specialty.

In the joint class of Miss Kendall and Gerald Towner, Miss Kendall teaches the two classes music and Spanish. Towner turns his talents to the sciences.

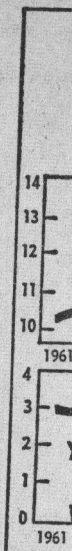
Across a hall, the two classes of Alan Poteete and Robert Tracy have undergone a similar change and there, also, the teachers devote their time to the large class, teaching their specialties.

The two enlarged classrooms can undergo still another metamorphosis. Walls in the corridor separating the two enlarged classrooms can be removed and the classroom is the one of 142 pupils.

"This larger class is brought about only for instruction in music or when we have a film," Miss Kendall said. "When Mrs. Jean Knight, city music supervisor, comes to the school on Wednesdays, all the walls or curtains are moved and she has the attention of all the students at once."

This not only allows for the voices of the children to develop, it enables the music supervisor to instruct a large number of pupils at one time. In the past, she would have to

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## Backstage Encounter