

Hyde School Expands, Offers It's First Junior High Program

BATH — The Hyde School will expand next month, for the first time including a junior high school program.

Edward P. Legg, the headmaster of the private high school, said Friday, "It's been something we've been thinking about for a long time. We've done extensive planning on adding the junior school for three or four years."

Legg expects between 25 and 30 seventh and eighth grade students to begin the first year of the new junior high school at Hyde when classes begin on Sept. 25. The 12-year old private high school has 200 students enrolled.

The new junior high students will be scheduled for an academic program including English, American and Maine history, geography, pre-algebra, French and a lab science. They will also be participating in the school's America's Spirit project and in Hyde's sports programs.

"The students will be integrated into the rest of our community," Legg said, "they won't be separated from the other students."

It will be just the opposite of two distinct high school and junior programs, according to Legg, because the new students will be active in all phases of the school. "The junior

high age is the most neglected of all and one of the most critical — if not the most critical time — for the kids because of the changes they are going through," Legg added.

"They need a lot of help at this age," he said. "Their bodies are changing along with their ideas and their own image of themselves. We really feel strongly that a full program to help them to develop physically, academically and creatively is important," Legg added.

The headmaster said many of the parents he's talked with apparently feel the same way. "We've had a number of people ask us about adding a junior school over the last several years," said Legg.

"This year's summer school program brought us 19 kids who wanted to stay here this fall. There wasn't much of a choice," Legg said, "we could tell them to come back in a year or two because they just aren't ready to handle our ninth grade program."

Instead Legg and his staff worked out a curriculum and the accrediting of the program and brought it before the Hyde School Board of Trustees, which voted to establish the junior high school on Aug. 11.

HYDE SCHOOL. BATH.

The Hyde School of Bath has decided to expand and will open a junior high school program this fall.

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