

Old Blackboard Gives Way to New 'Chalkboard'

You may have to look twice these days to find the classroom blackboard. Not that it's obscure, but the color may fool you.

Today's "blackboard" might be found in a bright shade of green or in pure white. It may match the walls or woodwork in shades of blue, brown or grey... or in the more traditional - black.

Color isn't the only thing that's changed, the blackboard has a new name - chalkboard - a more inclusive term for the different materials that go into the making of chalkboards.

Slate Material
At one time slate was the only material used, but now you'll find porcelain enamel on steel, porcelain enamel on aluminum, paint on metal, wood or masonite and compositions such as asbestos-cement.

The porcelain enamel chalkboard, one of the most popular types used in classrooms today, is constructed of the same material as your bathtub, kitchen sink and range.

For chalkboards the porcelain enamel materials are specially formulated to provide a nonglossy surface which makes writing a breeze and erasing more thorough since no stubborn "ghosts" remain.

Board Doubles
With the porcelain enamel on steel chalkboard, writing isn't all that can be done. This kind of board may be used with magnets, permitting the board to double as a visual aid or bulletin board.

Its smooth, bright surfaces also make it a good substitute for a projection screen. In addition, maps, music staves, and diagrams can be permanently silk screened or painted on the surface eliminating the need for redrawing each time the board is erased.

Unlike slate boards that had to be ground down and resurfaced every 20 years, a porcelain enamel board will outlast the school. Also gone is the screeching noise of chalk against slate.

Youngsters Face Biggest Demands For Education

Youngsters of high school age, who are seeking employment, face the biggest demands in history for education and training.

Competition for beginning jobs has never been stiffer, and this age group has the highest rate of unemployment in the nation (twice the national average).

In addition to high school graduates who are seeking employment, there is the special problem group of 900,000 youngsters who drop out of school before graduation. Some 400,000 of this group have court records, are slow learners, or are children of minority groups and migratory farm workers.

But something is now being done about this problem through the work of the National Committee on Employment of Youth.

Stem From Group
Stemming from the efforts of this group, local Youth Employment Services are springing up all over the country.

These local offices offer understanding placement counseling. They help young people to learn about themselves and the kinds of things they can do well. They begin to understand a bit about what is expected of youth entering an adult world.

Competition among companies for workers of dependable quality is becoming more and more acute. Teenagers represent the largest, most flexible, and trainable source of personnel.

With our expanding economy and the growth of our nation, they are the manpower on whom all of us are depending for so much. But these youngsters must have help and better direction.

35 Million Adults Plan Back to School

'Round the nation, grown-ups too, are dusting off notebooks and re-reading themselves for classes.

About 35 million adults each year go back-to-school for various types of adult education. Of this number, between five and seven million are enrolled in public school programs for adult learning.

Nation-wide, the states of California, New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan offer the best developed and most comprehensive public programs. California alone enrolls approximately 10 percent of its total population in adult education, sponsored by the public schools.

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