

# AFS helps send seniors abroad

by Walter Hard

What do the letters AFS stand for? American Field Service. This private organization was founded in 1914 and drove ambulances during the First World War.

In 1946, however, AFS switched to a very different sort of service. Since that year, it has help send thousands of American high school seniors abroad for a year in a foreign school, and brought thousands of foreign students to the U. S. for a school year. It deals with senior high students, 16-18 years old.

The money for this program is raised partly by fees and partly by AFS Clubs in the schools involved. Ramsey's AFS Club has 80 members and its advisor, Kathleen Detfen says it is doing better this year than ever before.

This year, Lynn C. Anderson was chosen to go overseas in the Americans Abroad Program, the part of AFS that sends American students to other nations.

Lynn said she was told March 17 that she had been chosen to go. Grant Blank is also a finalist and will learn later if he will also go abroad.

"This year there was the usual publicity about applying for the program. Very early this fall I decided to apply to go into it."

"There were 16 students applying. We were interviewed in groups of four by a committee made up of adults in the local chapter and Gail Irish, a former AFS student."

Later, the applicants were called back for short private interviews. Four of them were picked as semi-finalists, AFS representatives made informal visits to the homes of the four and finally selected Lynn and Grant as finalists.

Lynn doesn't know where she is going, yet, but it will be either Equador, the Philippines, or somewhere in Europe. A host home must be found for her, and she expects to find out what country she will visit sometime in May or June.

She will probably leave in late June or early August for New York, where she will depart for her country. The trip will cost her \$950 and AFS will provide her with an allowance while she is living with her foreign family. She will return in August or July 1971.

One of her problems will be language. She speaks French, but if she doesn't go to France she will have to learn the language quickly.

"Some countries like Norway and Sweden," she explained, "have language camps where you go to learn the language. That's why some students leave early."

"I understand that you usually get to really learn the language by Christmas, and former AFS students tell me that by Easter you're dreaming in it."

Lynn hopes the people she visits will be sympathetic towards her language problems. "I'm bound to make a few mistakes," she predicted.

She explained that leaving her friends and home is the thing that most concerns her.

"I look to it as putting yourself in a completely different situation. It's a test of you as a person. It should be a fantastic experience."

"I'm sure that we get propoganda about other countries just as they get propoganda about us. But actually living with a family in another country you can't get brainwashed. You really see what they're like."



## Changes for 1970-71 New schedule begins in fall

What will school be like next year at Ramsey? Quite a bit different, now that changes are going to be made in the school day.

Our day will be shortened, and periods altered. School will start as usual at 8:00, but instead of dismissing at 3:35, as we do now, the day will be shortened to 3:00. There will be seven periods of 50 minutes each, except for 4th hour, which will be 55 minutes long. The four lunch shifts will run between 10:45 and 12:15. Period 7 will end the day, but Period 8 is added for extracurricular activities and continuation of 7th hour activities.

The biggest change, though, is the change of the activity period from 5th hour to 7th hour. In this way, activities can continue into the 8th hour. Buses will run after 8th hour as well as after 7th hour. Athletics would be scheduled for 6th and 7th hours instead of 4th and 5th hours, as they are now. Early release permits will allow students to be dismissed 5th hour as there is now.

What are some of the reasons for these changes? First of all, Ramsey has one of the longest school days in the state. The structure of the day as it is now, causes many problems which will be corrected by the new plan. The faculty of Ramsey recognized these problems as early as last spring, and decided to do something at 2:05, the end of 6th hour. This is the only early release time; there would be none.

A representative executive committee was selected to deal

with general procedural problems. Another committee, called the Activity Steering Committee, was selected to deal with the change in the activity period. Members of this committee include James Warren, Jack Davitt,

Eldon Eddy, Curt Hill, and Carolyn Johnson, all members of the Ramsey faculty. Their plan was presented to the administration, approved by the State Department of Education.

The new plan are to allow more faculty meetings, time for make-up tests or remedial help for students, continuation of the 7th hour activities, and extension of sports practices. The 8th hour will also allow students to use the lab facilities whenever needed.

The Steering Committee felt that there are many problems with the existing activity program. For example, athletes often miss class because of participation in sports. Also, their 6th and 7th hour classes often terest. Under the new plan, athletics will also be able to eat lunch at a more reasonable hour.

Teacher help is not easily gotten with the present setup, either. During 8th hour, teachers will be available for help or makeup work. It will also give students time to use the library, language labs, and other school facilities. Our present 5th hour activity period makes it hard to get guest speakers and make field trips. Having the activity period at the

end of the day will make it easier for speakers to come to school, rather than having to sacrifice what might be their lunch hour.

However, these are some disadvantages to the new plan. Bus costs will be increased considerably because of both the 3:00 and 4:00 runs. It is feared that fewer students will participate in activities and athletics. The lunch room will be more crowded because more students will be eating lunch during shorter time periods. The present 5th hour activity is a nice break in the day, but the new plan would make for continuous work until 7th hour activity.

In addition to the schedule change, there are new courses being offered next year. Music Theory, which will be offered to juniors and seniors, will be a team teaching program of music directors Mr. Brost, Mr. Peterson, and Mr. Halquist. It is offered for those students who are planning a music career. Data Processing, a semester course, will also be offered to juniors and seniors. Business Principles has been renamed Consumer Economics, and Transcription will be called Shorthand II.

8:00-8:50	Period 1
8:55-9:45	Period 2
9:50-10:40	Period 3
10:45-12:15	Period 4 and Lunch
12:20-1:10	Period 5
1:15-2:05	Period 6
2:10-3:00	Period 7
	Activity Period and Some Classes
3:05-4:00	Period 8

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