Catlin Eyes Teaching Aids

Pupils at the new Catlin Elementary School in West Omaha this week were introduced to some of the newest teaching techniques. Equipment available at the Instructional Materials Center at Nathan Hale Junior High was taken to Catlin for use by the pupils throughout the week.

John Powers and Mrs. Mabel Goodwin of the materials center introduced some of the classes to the equipment Monday. The rest of the week, kindergarteners through fifth graders were helped in using the materials by Catlin's sixth graders.

Those students, under the leadership of Mrs. Lois Cunningham, had visited the materials center earlier. They learned how to operate the equipment so they would be able to assist the less advanced pupils. Essentially, the material consists of audio and visual aids. One small group sat around what amounted to a miniature television set (actually a record player with a film-slide enlargement device) which illustrated the recorded lecture with pictures of the subject matter. The lecture chronicled the history of man's adventure with flight.

Another group of Mary Halas' third graders with earphones sat around a table listening to a lecture on American history.

A record player substituted for a teacher for another group of students. Still another group was occupied in front of a small visual screen, which also resembled a small television set.

Mrs. Caryl Huitquist, Catlin principal, explained that each class would spend at least an hour with the materials during the week.

She also disclosed that parents were invited to school during the week for the purpose of "seeing what is available." She said she was particularly interested in having parents who are active in the school's P-TA unit see the new devices.

"The only way we would be able to get such equipment," the principal asserted, "is if the P-TA purchased it for us."

She also noted all the boys and girls at school are selling tickets for a "Food City Pancake Feed." Profits from their work, she added, will go to help school projects.

Powers and Mrs. Goodwin explained that the facilities at the materials center are for demonstration purposes only. They said the IMC is a federal project.