

THE INTERMEDIATE SCIENCE CURRICULUM STUDY LEVEL I PROGRAM

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CHAPTER I

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERMEDIATE SCIENCE CURRICULUM STUDY

The Intermediate Science Curriculum Study is an outgrowth of concern on the part of some people at The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, who felt that science education at the intermediate level could be much improved. The Intermediate Science Curriculum Study has developed a content and an approach to science which are somewhat different from the lecture-lab approach. The basic equipment for this approach as well as a core text and student record book have been marketed. Before we investigate the basic rationale behind the Intermediate Science Curriculum Study approach and review the material available, let us take a look at the development of this program.

Ernest Burkman, the original director of the Intermediate Science Curriculum Study, wrote something of the history of the study in his forward to the Fall, 1969, experimental edition of Probing the Natural World, Volume 1, the basic core text:

For some years a group of scientists and educators at The Florida State University have been deeply concerned about the kind of science education being given the nation's junior-high school students. During the period 1961-1963, national authorities on the subject met several times to discuss ways of improving science teaching at this level. From these discussions came a rationale for developing and organizing improved instructional materials. Small-scale writing sessions were conducted during 1964 and 1965, and pilot curriculum materials were tested in selected schools during the 1965-66 school year. All this preliminary work was supported from University funds. In June of 1966 the project came under the financial support of the United States Office of Education, and this aid has permitted an expanded effort.

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