

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.

July 18, 1913.

The Honorable
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

After very careful consideration and for the best interests of both the school and the proper advancement of the student body, I have arranged to incorporate after September first, when the new school year opens, an evening study hour during four evenings in the week.

I wrote your Office with reference to this matter on June 19, 1913, to which communication I received your reply dated June 28. Our school rooms are thoroughly ventilated with plenty of windows on both sides, the ^{ing}light/facilities will be made first class during the summer, and the office is no doubt familiar with the fact that our student body is composed of older students.

I write to the Office giving this information because I apprehend that this change will not be at first a very popular one, especially with those concerned among the faculty in the extra duties involved. It is an adjustment, however, which is absolutely necessary and is in conformity with the best usage in white

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schools and other institutions throughout the country. Normal schools in this state and elsewhere have such a study hour. There is a study hour in the evening at Hampton and at Tuskegee, and every reputable boarding school in the country has such a study hour. If the students are to make proper progress, it is fundamental that a certain portion of the time be devoted to active study. The plans for the inauguration of this work are being carefully perfected, and I believe that the work will have very little friction, and that after the passage of a few weeks, its conduct will be as natural as if it had been going on for years.

Very respectfully,


Superintendent.

MF:SR

No ans. necessary
pb

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Evening study
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FOR FILE

Mr. Moses Friedman,

Supt. Carlisle School.

Sir:

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The Office has received your letter of June 19, setting out the previous and present plans of study hour at Carlisle School, and requesting information in regard to a contemplated change.

There are no instructions prohibiting evening study periods, and the Office has heretofore approved their use. Where conditions are satisfactory as to light, convenience and a sufficient corps of employees, the Office favors an evening study hour for advanced pupils.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. H. Abbott.
Acting Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

June 19, 1913

The Honorable
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

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OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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Sir:

I have, for some time, had under advisement the matter of the evening study hour. In former years, the students were sent to the school building where they would study from seven until eight in the regular class rooms, under the academic instructors, four evenings each week. This plan of procedure was in operation for many years. I am informed that it worked well and brought beneficent results in teaching the value of time, self-reliance, and the importance of study. A year or more before I came to Carlisle, this arrangement was abandoned in favor of a plan whereby the students remain in their rooms during this hour. The latter plan does not, in my judgment, bring about the best results.

I have gone into our schedule carefully, and can see how a study hour of the kind which was in operation in former years, and which proved so valuable, can again be put into operation for an hour, two evenings a week. Before acting with reference thereto, I write to ascertain the views of the Office:

First; Are there any instructions issued by your Office which forbid the employment of an evening study hour during the

E. S. Friedman

evenings I mention, under the academic instructors?

Second; Would the Office permit the re-establishment of the evening study hour, in accordance with the suggestions contained in this letter.

I apprehend that there has been some objection to a class room study hour, which has to do with the question of the health of the students, their eye sight, and possibly with regard to the desirability of this from a standpoint of its benefits to the students. In partial answer to these negative criticisms, I respectfully call attention to the fact that young men and young women of the age of the students of this school of white blood, do quite a large amount of evening study at home. Furthermore, the question of the health of the students can be, and is, thoroughly taken care of by virtue of the physical culture which is given to all the students of this school regularly at certain times each week. At the same time, it is as much, if not more, of a strain to study in the dormitories than it is to study in the class room, where there is better artificial illumination.

While the matter of having a study hour in the class room has certain drawbacks which prevent it from being ideal, it certainly has advantages over our present method. The schedule for next year is now being made up, and I respectfully request an expression from the Office for my guidance.

Very respectfully,


Superintendent.