

## School Histories

*"A History of Wichita Public School Buildings" – compiled in 1978 by Nina Davis, updated in 1996 by Sara Lomax. Copyright 1997 USD259. If you wish to review the full printed publication, contact the district's Marketing and Communications Office at (316) 973-4515. Basic updates were provided for each active school site following completion of 2000 Bond Issue improvements.*

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## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

### Adams

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The original white frame county school house in the area, Cook Hill School, was located at what is now the northeast corner of Ninth and Oliver. The school had only one teacher and approximately 10 students. In 1924, the county replaced the white frame building with a four-room, red brick school house at the northwest corner of Ninth and Oliver. In 1927, the white frame county school was acquired from the county through condemnation and annexation to the city of Wichita. The school was renamed Samuel Adams Elementary School. Joy Steele, later Mrs. J.A. Hendrickson, was the first principal.

Because in 1927 the Cook Hill Rural District had built a replacement just across Oliver Street to the east for the one annexed to Wichita, it became necessary to find a new name for the Wichita school. After considering many names, Samuel Adams was selected by the Board of Education in December 1929. Samuel Adams was an early day statesman from the state of Massachusetts.

The present building at 1002 North Oliver was opened on December 5, 1948 with 500 children in Wichita's first postwar building. The structure incorporated most of the latest improvements in school design and planning. Its 15 rooms, including 13 regular classrooms, one kindergarten, a library and an activity room, were a far cry from the one-teacher school of 1926. By 1949, the enrollment necessitated Adams students to attend in shifts and the old, white frame building (affectionately known as the "Little White House") was used as a classroom and a workroom until Carter Elementary was completed. Once again, in 1951, the students attended in shifts until the completion of Murdock Elementary school. During that time, portables were moved on the grounds.

In 1958, Adams was one of four Wichita elementary schools to receive a grant from the Ford Foundation to participate in an educational TV project. The Foundation paid for the building of a multipurpose room because it was needed to show closed circuit TV to large groups of 60-80 students. The program lasted three years and, as a result, Adams had a room for PTA meetings, assemblies, programs and P.E.

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The pupil population in the district dropped steadily over the years; however, with the implementation of the integration plan the enrollment was stabilized at approximately 300 pupils, with about 33 percent of these being minority.

In 1981, all windows were replaced with thermal pane steel windows. In 1984, the office was remodeled.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program and boundary lines adjusted, leaving a K-5 enrollment of approximately 225 students, with about 20 percent of those being minority.

In April 2000, the voters of the Wichita School District approved a \$284.5 million bond issue. The projects began in the fall of 2000 and were completed over the next five years. The plan built 19 multipurpose rooms, upgraded science labs, replaced portable classrooms with permanent construction, improved handicap accessibility to all buildings, rebuilt five existing elementary schools, added a new elementary and middle school, expanded seven other elementary schools and provided nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

Adams received upgraded infrastructure, a new addition which included eight classrooms, renovations including student support classrooms, a library and restrooms on the 2nd floor. The total estimated cost was \$2,064,000. On November 27, 2000, the Board authorized the district to enter into an agreement with the architectural firm of Jeff Krehbiel & Associates for \$177,400 for phase 1B of the bond issue project.

On September 10, 2001, the Board of Education authorized the district to enter into a contract for the amount of \$2,749,500 with E.W. Johnson, Inc. to complete the construction project. The Adams' bond project was completed and the dedication ceremony was held May 20, 2003.

## Allen

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Allen Elementary School was built during the school year of 1951-52. The school opened in September 1952 with an enrollment of 579. By the close of school in May there were 664 students, and nine classrooms were on double shifts.

Allen was named after Henry J. Allen, a former governor and United States Senator. He served during his outstanding career as a newspaper editor, member of state and federal boards, in international relief work, and the affairs of the Republican Party. He was always a stalwart fighter for good government in the nation, state and city.

During the spring of 1953, ten portable units were constructed to provide needed classrooms; however, in September 1953, the enrollment increased to 952. The ten-unit classrooms were inadequate, and seven classes were placed on double shifts. Before Christmas the entire school, except the kindergarten, was on double shift. School closed that year with an enrollment of 1,038. Allen at that time was the largest school in the city.

Booth School, 5920 East Mt. Vernon, was completed, and 177 children were transferred to the new location in January of 1954. In the meantime, four more portable units were constructed. This made sufficient classroom space for the second semester. Two more portable classrooms were moved in during the years 1956, 1957 and 1958. Griffith School, 1802 South Bluff, was completed, and 197 children were transferred to the new school on October 15, 1958.

As the enrollment decreased, portables were moved from the area until seven remained in 1960. Three more portables were subsequently added to take care of the increased classrooms for the hearing impaired. As of 1995, there were 14 portables on the Allen campus.

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Hearing impaired special education students were housed at Allen from 1959 through 1990. In 1990, the hearing impaired program was moved to Caldwell Elementary School.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of around 300.

On April 12, 1999, the Board of Education approved a construction contract with American Mechanical, Inc. in the amount of \$77,861 to complete the boiler replacement including replacing water pipes in the boiler room.

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The Architectural firm of PBA Architects, P.A. developed a three-section elementary prototype to be used for Linwood, Enterprise and Allen Elementaries. Eby Construction Co. was awarded the contract to build the new Allen and Enterprise Elementary Schools. The old Allen building was replaced with a new school on the same site for an estimated amount of \$4,700,000.

The new building was completed in the Fall of 2003. Family and friends of Allen Elementary were invited to a bond celebration and dedication of the new building held on August 28, 2003.

## Anderson

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Due to declining population of school age children in the neighborhoods of Greiffenstein, Wilson and Wells elementary schools in southeast Wichita - an area known as South City - the Board of Education decided to construct a new building that would include the old Wilson structure, and move the three school populations together to create a new neighborhood school for the South City area.

Grace Wilson Elementary School was completed in August, 1954, and was ready for use at the opening of school on September 1 of that year. The architects were Ramey and Himes, and the general contractor was C.A. Doolittle, Jr.

The school was named for Grace V. Wilson, who served the Wichita Schools as supervisor of music from 1928 until her death in 1952. She was nationally recognized as an educator and she co-authored a series of music books for public schools called The American Singer, published by the American Book Company.

Construction was begun in 1984 on a large, modern looking building on the site of Wilson School, incorporating the old building into the new structure. During the construction, students from all three schools were housed at Greiffenstein. The new building was named after James E. Anderson, a prominent Wichita black educator who had served several years as an administrator for the district. Shortly after his retirement, he was killed in an automobile accident in 1978.

Carolyn Bridges was given the administrative responsibilities for the three schools and being the district contact for supervising the progress of the new building construction. The new modern building, designed by Gossen Livingston Associates, was completed in 1985.

In 1989, the building underwent some radical changes, both in remodeling activities and changes in paradigms that affected

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the restructuring of the educational programs. The building was rewired with state-of-the-art wiring to accommodate a new pilot program supported by Jostens Learning Corporation. That implemented advanced technology in the form of 250 computers - one for every two students - to allow changes in the delivery of services to children which included using the computers as tools for learning and writing.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of approximately 450 students.

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Anderson received a new addition including four classrooms, upgrades to the infrastructure and renovation to the student support area for an estimated total cost of \$732,000. The plans were prepared by the firm of Gossen Livingston Associates. On March 14, 2005, Caro Construction Co. was contracted to complete Anderson's remodels, as well as those of Colvin Elementary. The total cost for this contract was \$3,165,050.

The Bond project was completed and the dedication ceremony was held May 21, 2006 in conjunction with the retirement party of Penny Longhofer, who had been principal at Anderson since 2000.

## Beech

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It was with an eye to the future that the Board of Education, on September 15, 1975, purchased land in southeast Wichita for a new elementary school. Three years later, another site was purchased in northeast Wichita for the same purpose. On August 4, 1980, the architectural firm of Griffith and Bonham was appointed to design two elementary school buildings, identical in plan but not in finish, to be located on these two sites.

E.W. Johnson, Inc. was awarded the building contract for both locations in the amount of approximately \$3,250,000 per building. Construction began on September 7, 1982 at the southeast site. After considering all recommendations, the Board of Education decided the newest elementary school should bear the name of the local pioneer in the field of aviation, Walter H. Beech.

Mr. Beech stands in the front ranks of air pioneers. He not only foresaw the role of the airplane far into the future, but translated that foresight into reality, producing a line of outstanding aircraft and establishing the aircraft company which later became Raytheon, and then Hawker Beechcraft, and continues to be one of Wichita's major industries. At the age of 23, Mr. Beech made his first recorded solo flight - just 11 years after Orville Wright flew for the first time at Kitty Hawk. After serving in the Aviation Section of the U.S. Army Signal Corps as a pilot, engine expert and flight instructor, he came to Wichita as a test pilot and demonstrator for the Laird Swallow Aircraft Company. He later became vice president and general manager of the firm. Following a dispute over whether Swallow frames should be made of metal or wood, Mr. Beech left the company in 1924 and organized the Travel Air Company of Wichita, which later merged with Curtiss-Wright Airplane Company of New York.

In 1932, in the darkest year of the depression, Walter Beech and his wife of two years, Olive Ann, returned to Wichita to establish the Beech Aircraft Company. The company's products were successful and the firm established itself as a world leader in civilian and military aircraft. Active to his last day, Mr. Beech was stricken with a heart attack and died suddenly November 29, 1950.

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Walter H. Beech Elementary School opened its doors on August 27, 1984 to 437 anxious students. They were enthusiastically greeted by Principal Gloria McAfee and her staff of 36. The building is equipped with a gym, multipurpose room, library media center, facilities for music and art, 23 classrooms, a computer lab, a learning kitchen and much more.

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Beech received a new addition, which included four classrooms, for an estimated cost of \$450,000. On January 24, 2005, the Board contracted National Contractors, Inc. to complete the Beech, Gammon and Isely Bond projects for \$1,633,750.

The Bond project was completed and the dedication ceremony was held November 15, 2005.

### **Benton**

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In the fall of 1957, Mary Benton Elementary School was opened with a staff of nine teachers for grades kindergarten through eight. Mobley and Safely were architects for the building. Mrs. Norma Thomason, first grade teacher, was acting principal.

Benton was an outgrowth of Peterson School, District 69, Sedgwick County. The name was selected in honor of Miss Mary Benton who was the first teacher at Peterson in 1875. She began teaching December 13, 1875 and taught for three months at a salary of \$75.

In the fall of 1959, three classrooms, a storage room and a special services room were added.

In the spring of 1960, the patrons of District 69 requested annexation by the Wichita Public School System, and in the fall Benton opened as a Wichita public school with grades kindergarten through six.

In 1976, bond funds provided for an addition of six rooms, a library and restrooms. Air conditioning was provided in the original building, as well as the addition. Safely Associates were the architects for the addition.

The rapid expansion of special education programs throughout the school system during the 1970s necessitated additional classroom space on the west side. In November of 1976, the Board of Education employed Thomas, Harris, Ash and Mason to provide architectural planning for a three-room addition at Benton to house educable mentally handicapped students. Scheduled to open in 1978, this project was included in planning for capital outlay expenditures.

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Benton's infrastructure was upgraded, a new addition including 5 classrooms and a kitchen was added, and renovations were made to the student support area. The school was also made more handicap-accessible.

On December 10, 2001, the Board authorized an agreement with the architectural firm of Howard & Helmer Architects, P.A. for phase 2C of the Bond Issue project.

On January 12, 2004, the district contracted with Commerce Construction for an amount of \$1,943,200 to complete the remodel and addition project. The Bond project was completed and the dedication ceremony was held November 16, 2004.

### **Black Traditional Magnet**

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Jessie Hunter Black Elementary School was built in 1954 to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding West Side and to serve an area that had formerly been a part of the OK district but had been annexed by the city. The school was completed in October of 1954 and was occupied immediately by the pupils and staff who had been holding classes on an afternoon shift at Field Elementary School. Leaper and Gilbert were architects for the building.

Dedication services were held on the afternoon of Sunday, November 14, 1954, and were attended by members of the Board of Education, school administrators, staff and other important citizens of the community. At this time, a portrait of Mrs. Jessie Hunter Black, after whom the school was named, was presented to the school by a niece, Mrs. Knorr. Mrs. Black was credited with being the first public school teacher in Wichita, having taught several years as Miss Jessie Hunter.

The initial enrollment was 300. This rapidly increased, and a peak enrollment of 580 was reached in 1965. Through the years, 12 portable classroom units were placed on the school site to provide for expanded enrollment and special services. In 1968, two classrooms were combined to develop an adequate library facility.

The 1974 bond election included improvements for Black Elementary. After a year of planning, renovation and construction were begun. The kindergarten area was enlarged, and the office area was extended. The old library, teacher lounge and music room were converted into four classrooms. The new addition included five classrooms, a library media resource center with conference and instructional areas, instrumental music room, multipurpose room, restroom and inner courtyard. Renovation and construction were completed in November 1976 at a cost of \$642,718. The building was occupied in December and the need for portables on the school site eliminated.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of approximately 300 students.

In 1989, 16 ceiling fans were placed in eight classrooms and the remaining four classrooms without air conditioning received fans by December 1990. The project was financed by the Black Elementary PTA.

In 1993, the school board responded to community interest in a traditional magnet school and Black Traditional Elementary Magnet School was created.

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The district entered contracts with architects Hanney & Associates and with Bauer and Son Construction to complete the Black and McLean remodel and addition projects.

The Black bond project was completed for the Fall of 2003, and the school held their bond celebration and dedication on September 2, 2003.

### **Bostic Traditional Magnet**

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The Leicle Bostic Traditional Elementary Magnet School is housed in the former Kistler Elementary School which was originally a part of Common School District No. 184, Kechi. The district came into the Wichita Public School System by attachment in July of 1963.

The site is located on a farm which was formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Foster. This farm was a part of the original Osage Trust Lands (1873).

The original school, containing three classrooms and a gymnasium, was completed in 1953, and classes actually started in January of 1954. An addition of two permanent classrooms was completed in 1955. Three portable classrooms were built on the site in 1958, and three permanent classrooms were added to the main building in 1962. Two additional portable classrooms were added in 1963, two in 1966, and a portable restroom in 1969.

Kistler was closed as an attendance center in May of 1984. The building was used for storage until 1988. From 1988 to 1994 the building was used as a Gammon Elementary School annex.

In 1994-95, the building was renamed Leicle Bostic Traditional Magnet Elementary School after a former USD 259 principal, and Gammon students returned to the base school. At present it houses one classroom each (K-5) and has an enrollment of 155 students. The two other classrooms are utilized as a library and computer lab.

At the April 8, 1996 meeting, the Board of Education approved the closing of the Bostic School building at the end of the 1995-96 school year and the entire program moved to the Stearman site at 8103 East Gilbert, keeping the Bostic name.

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The school district hired the firm of Winter Architects, and Caro Construction Co. was utilized to complete the Bond project. The infrastructure at Bostic was upgraded, and the bus load/unloading areas revamped.

Bostic's Bond project was completed for the amount of \$865,945 and the school's dedication ceremony was held September 4, 2003.



## Bryant Core Knowledge Magnet

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John B. Bryant Elementary School was built to alleviate overcrowded conditions at three other elementary schools: Black, Dodge and OK. Ash and Harrison were the architects for the structure.

The school opened its doors in January 1957, at the start of the second semester, to students who lived between Newell Street on the south to 13<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, and from West Street on the east to the "Big Ditch" on the west. The number of students entering was 430, and they were taught by 14 teachers. All were housed in the one building.

In the years Bryant has been in operation, its enrollment has climbed as high as 732. The addition of portables to the school site began in the 1958-59 school year and continued until, in addition to the 14 classrooms of the original building, in 1970 there were 11 portable classrooms.

In 1976, an addition consisting of eight classrooms, three classrooms for educable mentally handicapped, a multipurpose room, and a new mechanical room for the entire building was constructed. The old multipurpose room was remodeled into a media center, and the office areas were renovated. Architects for the addition were Carmichael/Associates.

In 1981, all windows were replaced with thermal pane steel windows. In 1985, a stone room was added, and in 1987, a computer lab added.

Enrollment has been declining since the late 1980s. At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth-grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of approximately 400 students.

Bryant School was named for John B. Bryant, a well-known Wichita lawyer who served many years as a member of the Wichita Board of Education. On July 13, 1998, the Board of Education approved a name change effective with the 1998-99 school year. Bryant Elementary was changed to Bryant Core Knowledge Magnet.

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As a result of Bond project construction, Bryant received a new addition that includes five classrooms. Renovations were also made to student support and other classrooms, and a covered loading/unloading area for special education was provided as well.

Working on this project were Spangenberg Phillips Architecture and construction company Hahner, Foremen and Harness, Inc. The addition and renovation project was \$1,596,363. The Bond project dedication ceremony was held January 27, 2005.



## **Buckner Performing Arts Magnet**

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Buckner Elementary School was opened in the fall of 1956 with seven regular teachers and the principal. Special personnel, in addition to the secretary and custodian, included a nurse, counselor, a lip-reading teacher, vocal music and instrumental music teacher. The new building was designed to house 225 pupils, and 208 were enrolled in kindergarten through grade six that first year. There were seven classrooms in the original building.

Seven additional classrooms, a multipurpose room and library were added to the structure in 1958. Increased enrollments and remodeling to provide space for the Buckner Demonstration Library required the addition of two portable classrooms in 1961, one in 1962 and one in 1969. The architects for the original structure and the 1958 addition were Hibbs, Robinson and Pettit. The successful 1974 bond election provided funds for construction in 1976 of three additional classrooms, a multipurpose room, restrooms and kitchen. The old multipurpose room was converted into two classrooms, and three larger classrooms were remodeled. Pettit and Bullinger were architects for this addition.

Buckner was named to honor Mary Wadsworth Buckner who came to Wichita in 1884 as the bride of Judge William T. Buckner. She fought against child abuse and for the rights of women. She helped found the Hypatia Club and later was chosen president of the Wichita Federation of Women's Clubs. She found time to collect funds to help build St. John's Episcopal Church and became the first woman candidate for the Board of Education. She served on the Board until 1916 when her daughter, Sue Buckner, who graduated from Fairmount in 1913, applied to teach in the Wichita Public Schools.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of approximately 275 students.

During the 1992-93 school year, Buckner became a magnet school emphasizing the performing arts. The emphasis of the different performing arts components (dance, drama and music) is used to increase students' interest in school.

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Additions to Buckner include eight classrooms and a library. Renovations were also made to existing classrooms and to the student support area. Charles F. McAfee, FAIA NOMA, P.A. provided architectural and engineering services for the school. Diggs Construction Co., Inc. was contracted to complete the renovations for the amount of \$2,840,500. The Bond project dedication ceremony was held November 15, 2004.

## **Caldwell**

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Caldwell Elementary School began its existence at Jefferson School in the fall of 1950. Regular Jefferson pupils attended the morning shift; Caldwell and Fabrique pupils attended the afternoon session. The pupils and teaching staffs of Caldwell and Fabrique were moved to the original south wing of the present Caldwell plant in January 1951. Fabrique staff and pupils moved into their new building in March 1951.

In 1951, Caldwell consisted of a principal, 13 classroom teachers and an enrollment of approximately 400 pupils. The school

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was built to serve the educational needs of a new community which developed rapidly on the periphery of southeast Wichita. The school was erected on the same campus with Curtis Junior High School and Wichita High School Southeast. This location enabled pupils residing in the district to obtain 12 years of uninterrupted schooling within walking distance of their homes.

Ulysses S. Grant was president in 1871 when Marvin Beal obtained a \$200 grant for 160 acres of land on which Caldwell School is located. Beal immediately sold the land to Joseph Taylor for \$500. In 1882, Taylor sold the parcel to a Mr. Disbrow for \$2,600. In 1950, the Wichita Board of Education paid \$75,000 for 60 acres of this land. Caldwell School was located on 6.1 acres of this purchase.

Caldwell School was named in honor of Mr. Charles Stuart Caldwell, a member of the Wichita Board of Education from 1874 to 1877 and secretary of the Board from 1896-1910.

The first wing of Caldwell School was built in 1950-51 and contained seven classrooms, office, workroom, toilets and a boiler room. Seven additional classrooms were added in 1951-52. The last addition, consisting of seven classrooms, toilets, conference rooms and a multipurpose room, was completed in 1960-61. Before the completion of the 1960-61 addition, it was necessary by 1957 to place 14 portable buildings on the site to house the record enrollment of 769 pupils.

The enrollment of Caldwell rose from 400 in 1950 to a high of 769 in 1954. For the next four years the enrollment fluctuated between 969 and 763. After 1959, the enrollment decreased until the population stabilized at approximately 350 pupils. In 1990, the district hearing impaired program was moved from Allen to Caldwell. The Singing Hands Choir is a program offered to fourth and fifth graders. It involves using Signing Exact English with music.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of approximately 400 students.

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Caldwell received a new addition that included five classrooms and a student support area designed by the architectural firm of McCluggage Van Sickle & Perry. A contract was made with Simpson and Associates, Inc. to complete the remodel and addition project in the amount of \$1,867,000. The Bond project dedication ceremony was held April 20, 2006.

## Cessna

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Enterprise School District 15 was organized in 1875 with half a dozen or so pupils. It was one of the first schools organized in the rural areas of Sedgwick County.

The school house was first located on the corner of Broadway and MacArthur Road. Church was held in the building and, according to old timers, a number of men jacked up the structure one Sunday afternoon after church in 1880 or 1881 and moved it to the present location of Enterprise School, 3612 South Seneca. The work was done before the opposition could get an injunction to stop them. The Court House, of course, was closed.

The school enrollment has grown rapidly since its beginning and has required several building additions to keep pace with the enrollment. A new building at 2101 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street South was constructed in 1960 to house fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth

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grade students. The new school was named Enterprise South.

In 1963, District 15 was annexed to the Wichita Public Schools, and the district was divided to accommodate pupils from grades kindergarten through six. Enterprise South was renamed Clyde V. Cessna in 1964 in honor of the man who pioneered the manufacture of aircraft in Wichita.

Cessna School maintained an enrollment of approximately 550 students until sixth grade became a part of middle school in 1988, leaving an average enrollment of 350 K-5 students. The community is quite mobile, as the attendance center includes four large mobile home courts which house almost one-fourth of the student body.

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Cessna's Bond construction included a new addition with two classrooms and a library, as well as renovations for other classrooms and the student support area. The district entered into an agreement with Architectural Innovations L.L.C for this part of the Bond project. In April 2003, the District entered into a contract with E.W. Johnson, Inc. in the amount of \$2,391,300 to complete the bond project renovation and addition according to the plans and specifications prepared by the architect.

Cessna's Bond project dedication ceremony was held August 19, 2004.

## Chisholm Trail

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The story of Chisholm Trail School dates back to April 1873, when the first school board of District 51 was elected with three members. A one-room frame structure, 18' x 28', served for a schoolhouse. Since there was no money for desks, the first students sat on benches and used their knees to write on. The school was called Kechi Center and was located at 61<sup>st</sup> and North Lawrence (now Broadway).

In 1919, the frame house was replaced by a brick building, and in 1929 the increased enrollment made an addition necessary. By 1955, enrollment had again increased and Chisholm Trail School was constructed at 6001 Forester, about a mile from Kechi Center. Classes were held at both buildings. With the completion in 1958 of the Chisholm Trail Junior High building which housed grades seven and eight, the primary building was used for Kindergarten through second grade, and fourth through sixth grade. Third grade classes were housed at the Kechi Center building.

In 1963, District 51 became a part of Unified School District 259, and at that time use of the Kechi Center building was discontinued.

The enrollment has reflected the growth pattern of the city and county. In 1893, there were 26 children attending Kechi Center. Forty-three were enrolled in 1903. In 1967-68, the peak enrollment of 900 students was reached at Chisholm Trail.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a PK-5 enrollment of approximately 500 students.

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## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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2000 and were completed over the next five years. The plan built 19 multipurpose rooms, upgraded science labs, replaced portable classrooms with permanent construction, improved handicap accessibility to all buildings, rebuilt five existing elementary schools, added a new elementary and middle school, expanded seven other elementary schools and provided nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

The architectural firm of Wilson & Company helped with the Chisholm Trail renovations. They included a new addition with four classrooms and a library, as well as renovations for classrooms and student support. In June 2004, this remodeling placed the front entrance on Independence Street, which changed Chisholm Trail's address from 6001 Forester to the current address. Caro Construction Co., Inc. received a contract for the amount of \$2,633,100 to complete the remodel and addition project.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held October 20, 2005.

### Clark

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Jessie L. Clark Elementary School was opened February 9, 1953 with 212 children and six teachers. A new school, the pride of the community, was destined to grow for the next few years.

The school was named for Miss Jessie L. Clark, a pioneer in the Wichita Public School system. From 1887 to 1891, Miss Clark was the only traveling music teacher in the city, and in 1891, she became the first music supervisor for the school system. She held the position until her retirement in 1923. Miss Clark not only built an enviable reputation as a music teacher but was also recognized as a leader in civic music circles. In fact, present day musical Wichita owes much to this dedicated teacher.

An enrollment of 395 pupils in September 1953 made necessary an increase in the teaching staff to nine. In September 1954, there was a faculty of 14 with a steadily increasing number of pupils. By the end of that year 551 pupils were enrolled.

Four portable units were added for the 1955-56 term; 17 teachers taught the 615 pupils. The next year relief came when Stearman Elementary School opened, and the pupil enrollment dropped to 553.

In 1958-59, the decline in enrollment began; 478 pupils answered the September roll call, but only 345 were present in September 1959. In the following years enrollment declined again and the school was eventually paired with Booth Elementary. The two schools shared a principal but had grades K-6 on each campus. In 1990-91, Booth became an Early Childhood Center serving prekindergarten and kindergarten students and each campus had its own principal. Clark became the attendance center for students in grades 1-5 from the Booth attendance area as well as grades K-5 in its neighborhood. With this pairing, the attendance at Clark rose to 315 students in 1991. Following that year there has been a steady decline and it was decided to pair Clark and Stearman at the beginning of 1995-96 and share one principal because of low enrollment in each building. When this decision was made Clark was serving 245 students.

In the fall of 1967, temporary partitioning was installed in Room 115 to establish private areas for the school psychologist, nurse and speech clinician. A permanent addition consisting of a new media center, a multipurpose room, kitchen, restrooms and an office was completed in 1976-77. The existing library was converted into two classrooms. The boiler was replaced in 1989.

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nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

Clark received a new addition including five classrooms and a new student support area. Agreements were made with Spangenberg Phillips Architecture and Simpson & Associates Construction Co. to complete the project. The remodel and addition cost \$1,354,770. The Bond project dedication ceremony was held September 16, 2004.

### **Cleaveland Traditional Magnet**

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Cleaveland Elementary School, located in the extreme southwest part of Wichita, opened in September 1956 as an all-portable building. The temporary structure had a beginning enrollment of 66 and a staff of four teachers, in addition to the principal, William H. Morgan. From 1957 to 1960, Mr. Morgan served as principal for both Cleaveland and Sim Elementary Schools.

By 1960, the enrollment had grown to over 300, and Schaefer, Schirmer and Eflin, architects, were employed to design a permanent building. The new structure was completed and ready for occupancy in September 1962. Built as a two-unit school expandable to four, the building had 16 classrooms with a central core housing a multipurpose room, library, toilet areas and mechanical room. The mechanical system was unique in Wichita Schools at that time. The system provided hot water heating in the winter and well water cooling in the summer, thus making it possible to utilize the building year round.

Dedicatory services were held October 28, 1962. The school was named in honor of Cynthia W. Cleaveland, who came to Wichita in 1886 at the age of 33, and was a teacher in the Wichita system for more than 40 years. In 1941, Miss Cleaveland was president of the Wichita City Teachers Association which she helped organize. She also had a part in organizing the Wichita Music Club.

Two classrooms, a multipurpose room, reading laboratory, kitchen, equipment storage room and two restrooms were added to the building in 1976. The existing multipurpose area was enlarged and converted into a media center, and the office was remodeled. The addition was designed by the Oblinger-Smith Corporation. In 1994-95, a chiller air conditioning unit was installed, replacing the original water cooling unit.

Enrollment has remained fairly stable in the school district. After reaching 465 in 1967-68, the school population gradually decreased to 226 in 1994-95.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 school year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of approximately 225 students.

At the April 8, 1996 meeting, the Board of Education approved the closing of Cleaveland School at the end of the 1995-96 school year, with students sent to Woodman and Kelly. Cleaveland reopened as a west side elementary traditional magnet program beginning the 1996-97 school year.

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The district retained Professional Engineering Consultants to perform all required design engineering services for Cleaveland Traditional Magnet for a contract price of \$4,100.00. This bond project was completed in the Spring of 2006.

### Cloud

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With the 1950 postwar industrial growth in Wichita and its subsequent influx of people, it became apparent by the fall of 1953 that a new school building would need to be constructed to house pupils in the northwest part of the city. For where waving fields of grain had flourished in 1952, now some 400 new homes stood occupied by young newcomers with growing families. As a result, in the fall of 1954, a blond-brick, ranch-style, 17-room schoolhouse was completed. A staff of nine teachers and a principal supervised the initial enrollment of 414 pupils. At a cost of \$225,000, the completed structure was designed to house all pupils west of Woodland Street, north of 21st Street, south of 27th Street and east of the Arkansas River.

A dedicatory service for Cloud Elementary School was held on October 10, 1954. Named in honor of the great Indian educator, Henry Roe Cloud, these services centered about Dr. Cloud's life. His wife, Mrs. Cloud, was guest speaker. A full-blooded Winnebago Indian, Dr. Cloud was born in a wigwam in the area that is now Nebraska. In 1915, he founded the American Indian Institute at 4000 East 21st Street in Wichita. He was graduated with honors from Yale University with three degrees including the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In 1931, he was assigned by the Department of Interior to the position of Field Representative of Indian Affairs over the entire United States. No personality more dramatically represents the true purpose of the American Educational system than Dr. Cloud.

The enrollment at Cloud grew, and expansion plans were initiated regularly for the next five years, with an accumulated addition of seven annexes to house the approximately 600 pupils enrolling by 1960-61. A staff of 22 teachers and seven specialists was provided. Two more annexes were added in 1962. Enrollment reached 627 in 1964-65 and then gradually declined to around 300.

In 1972, Waco and Finn Elementary schools were sold to the Urban Renewal Agency; however, the buildings were leased back to the Board of Education until an addition to Cloud could be completed that would accommodate the pupils from the two schools. The architectural firm of Woodman, Van Doren and Reynolds planned and supervised the construction of 22 classrooms, a music room, a library media center and a multipurpose room. The new facility opened in the fall of 1974, increasing the total building capacity to 900.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth-grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a PK-5 racially diverse enrollment of approximately 650 students.

In September 1997, the Board of Education approved a construction contract with Claassen Construction Co. for an addition to Cloud Elementary School in the total amount of \$208,000.

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Cloud received a new addition including a new kitchen. The new cafeteria was finished, and a new parking lot was installed. The district contracted with Sauerwein Construction Co. in the amount of \$935,700 to complete the bond construction project. The Bond project dedication ceremony was held April 27, 2006.

## College Hill

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On August 5, 1889, the Wichita Board of Education received a petition from the residents of the College Hill area asking that a lot at the northwest corner of Clifton Avenue and Prospect (First Street) be purchased as a permanent location for a school building. One week later the Board voted to appropriate \$4,000 to purchase the ground and \$8,000 to build and heat a building at the proposed site. In December, \$6,280 was set aside as the specific amount.

The two-story stone building was completed and accepted on November 30, 1890. The building faced First Street and sat at the extreme west side of the school grounds. It was a two-teacher school and housed grades one through eight. According to Board minutes, a third teacher was added to College Hill at the beginning of the 1894-95 school term.

In October 1912, plans were adopted for a new building at College Hill, and in December of that same year a contract was let. Architect for the building was F.F. Parsons. Cost for the general contract was \$41,050; heating, plumbing and sewer totaled \$4,739.50; making the total project cost \$45,789.50. This new school housed eight grades. The old original building was remodeled to accommodate home economics and woodworking classes for the seventh and eighth grades. The building became an elementary school in the fall of 1921 when the seventh and eighth grades were moved to Roosevelt Intermediate School. At that time the original building was abandoned, but was not torn down until 1927 when the College Hill PTA requested the grounds be beautified. The building was constructed for a capacity of 350 students. The addition of four portable units increased the capacity to 450.

In 1976, for the third time, a new College Hill School was constructed. The 64-year-old structure was razed to make way for a modern building with a capacity of 600 pupils. Griffith and Bonham, architects, designed and supervised the construction of the building at a cost of approximately \$1,350,000. The new school was planned for completion in August 1977. During the interim year, fifth and sixth grade pupils were housed in portables located on the site, while other grades were located in houses adjacent to the site. These houses were purchased by the Board of Education with the intent of razing them to provide a larger site for College Hill.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of approximately 450 students.

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College Hill received a new addition including two classrooms and student support, as well as improvement of the ramp that exits to the playground. The school district approved a contract with Descon, Inc. for \$968,367 to complete the Bond project. The project dedication ceremony was held May 4, 2006.



## Colvin

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Promotion of a new school building to replace the former Planeview schools seriously began during the Bond Campaign of 1966 with a "building needs" study. Built in 1943, Rogers, MacArthur, and Brookside elementary schools were wartime, temporary structures which became part of the Wichita Public Schools in 1955. Lack of funding delayed replacement of these buildings many years prior to 1966; and when the bond campaign of 1966 was declared invalid, a new structure was not assured until the 1974 successful bond election. (Due to the condition of the building and declining enrollments, Brookside School was closed in 1971 and pupils were transferred to Rogers and MacArthur for the 1971-72 school year.)

During the planning for the new facility, area residents expressed interest in a City community center-elementary school complex. Cooperation between the Wichita Board of Park Commissioners and the Board of Education resulted in the current site selection and a total cost savings through the shared financing of construction and use of facilities. This also expanded the scope of services available to the community.

The school building contains 78,917 square feet, the community center approximately 10,225; and the total complex is located on a site of 18 acres. Cost of the 89,142 square feet space was about \$2,500,000. The school is designed to house 800 children. The enclosed courtyard contains a school garden which separates the school from the community center; however, the public library which is shared by the pupils and public is in the center of the school wing. Featured in the special education suite are a home-living area and media center including a special reading room and a circular mathematics laboratory. Moveable storage units allow for flexible room arrangement and the building is equipped with an intercom communications system and outlets for future television systems in every classroom.

The principal and contractor had thought moving the MacArthur and Rogers pupils to the new Colvin School would be completed in the fall of 1977; however, unanticipated delays changed the moving date to January 1978 for MacArthur pupils and February for Rogers students.

The Colvin Elementary School was named for the late C. Fred Colvin who was employed as high school principal of Planeview in 1943 and later became assistant superintendent and then superintendent of Planeview schools. In 1953, before the Planeview school district was annexed to the Wichita School System, Mr. Colvin became Assistant Superintendent in charge of Special Services for the Wichita School System. Four years later he was named Assistant Superintendent in charge of the Personnel Services Division, the position he maintained until his death in 1966.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a PK-5 enrollment of approximately 775 students.

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Upgrades to Colvin include a new addition with 14 classrooms and support areas. The plans were prepared by the architectural firm of Gossen Livingston Associates. Caro Construction Co., Inc. completed the Anderson and Colvin remodels and additions for a total of \$3,165,050.

Colvin held its Bond project dedication ceremony on March 14, 2006.

## Dodge Literacy Magnet

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The decision to build a school on the present site was made at a stormy annual Board meeting around 1938. Board members wanted to build an addition to the existing school, known as Eureka School, but many of the patrons wanted a new school built north of Highway 54 (Maple Street). Both sides enlisted supporters to attend the annual meeting and because of the tension, sheriff officers were present. Since most of the patrons lived north of the highway, the decision was made in their favor.

The first building on the present site consisted of eight classrooms. The cost, including furnishings, was reported to have been under \$50,000. While the building was built for economy, it did have features which were considered ultramodern. The school was even featured in an article in the May 1940 *School Board Journal*. The building was opened on March 25, 1940, with 225 students in grades 1-8 who transferred from the South Eureka school building. School lunches were served during the early history of the school. The school district was the first - west of the Mississippi - to receive and use surplus commodities in their hot lunch program.

In 1944, a brick structure with four classrooms (north end of the present brick building) was added to the site at a reported cost of \$28,000. In 1950, four additional classrooms and two restrooms were added to the brick structure. A second addition, consisting of the south eight rooms, was added in 1952 at the cost of \$60,000.

In 1954, Dodge became a part of the Wichita Public Schools. The school name was changed to the Almon E. Dodge Elementary School. Mr. Dodge, the Wichita pioneer after whom the school was named, homesteaded in west Wichita. His home was on the site of the old Wichita Hospital at Seneca and Douglas. He was the first justice of the peace of Delano Township. Mr. Dodge was also construction superintendent of the first bridge across the river south of the city. The site now consisted of a cement building with eight classrooms and a brick building with 16 classrooms. Enrollment was 750 students. Portable classrooms were added in 1954, 1957, 1958 and 1961. In 1966, Title I funds provided an all-electric portable for reading classes. An addition consisting of ten classrooms, restrooms and a multipurpose room was constructed in 1976. A peak enrollment of 807 was reached in November, 1957. As enrollment grew, seventh and eighth grades were transferred to the south building and the school became an attendance center for grades 1-6.

Beginning with the 1995-1996 school year, Dodge became known as the Dodge-Edison Partnership school. It was the second Edison Partnership School in the country. The school day and year were extended and personal computers were placed in every student's home.

In June, 2003, the contract with the Edison Project was terminated. On April 14, 2003, the Board of Education approved the name change to Dodge Literacy Magnet School. The goal of the new program was to teach the students a love of reading and writing as they explore their full potential in all other curricular areas.

November, 2008, a School District bond was passed for new school construction and upgrades to facilities. Upon passage of the bond, it has been determined that Dodge Literacy Magnet Elementary School will be in phase 1 of the projects and would receive an entire new building. The date to start construction of the new building for Dodge has yet to be determined. The district's goal is to have all Phase 1 projects under design by the end of the calendar year.

## Earhart Environmental Magnet

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The original North Riverside School building serving the children of District 170 was a small two-room wood-frame structure located at approximately 39th Street and Arkansas. It was in operation for most of the first half of the twentieth century and was the attendance center for farm children of the area who went through grade eight. Those who chose to attend high

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school went either to Valley Center or a Wichita high school.

In 1952, the present 11-acre site was occupied by a small building which was added to as the area became more settled. The school continued on a kindergarten through grade eight basis. Hot lunches were served because of the distance some students had to walk.

The district came into the Wichita Public School system by attachment on July 1, 1963 and in 1964-65 the name was changed to Amelia Earhart in honor of the famous Kansas aviatrix. In September 1965, the school organization was altered to serve kindergarten through grade six.

In 1977, the school became an environmental magnet school. Working with school officials, local, state and federal agencies, an environmental outdoor classroom area was designed for the north part of the school ground. Divided into four sections, there is a natural vegetation area, a picnic area and a formal garden area - each an important part in the overall site.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of approximately 300 students.

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As part of the 2000 bond issue, Earhart Environmental Magnet received a new, state-of-the-art building to replace the old school.

Construction wrapped up in November 2008 on the new Earhart. On November 12, the students met at the old school to pack up their desks. They walked through their old school and past the portables for the last time before they walked over to the new school.

The original school was demolished to make room for parking and more outdoor learning opportunities. The school arranged to demolish the building with minimal impact to the existing trees and plants surrounding the old building.

Earhart's new school can hold 450 students and features an environmental lab, library with a computer room, two music rooms, an art room, cafeteria, parent involvement center and a multipurpose room that is a FEMA tornado safe room.

To coincide with the environmental magnet theme, the school has large windows for natural lighting, preferred parking for fuel efficient vehicles, recycling alcoves in the school, a neighborhood recycling center, an outdoor courtyard and will retain rainwater on site.

### **Emerson Open Magnet**

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Emerson, originally known as the Second Ward School, has a long and varied history. Apparently, the first building was of frame since records show that a frame building was moved to the Third Ward for part of the "Old Washington School" when a new brick building was constructed in 1880. The four-room structure cost \$7,900 and was located at the corner of Central and Water. Enrollment increased, and two rooms were added in 1883 and two more in 1889. On February 4, 1889, the name of the school was officially changed to Emerson in honor of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the famous American essayist and poet.

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On June 2, 1919, the Board of Education purchased a tract of land at the corner of Central and Waco on which to construct a new Emerson Elementary School. Cost of the site was \$20,000, and construction cost for the three-story building was approximately \$100,000.

Over the years the district became highly commercialized, and the enrollment dropped until it was no longer financially feasible to maintain the attendance center. Emerson was closed on June 3, 1963, and for several years was used for storage purposes. On January 4, 1965, the building was leased to the City of Wichita for use as a Police Academy. The building was used for this purpose until June 30, 1973.

In response to requests from school patrons, the school was reopened for the 1975-76 school year as Emerson Open Alternative School. The enrollment for the first year was 144 in grades kindergarten through eight. The school emphasized the open educational approach to learning, and enrollment was entirely voluntary.

The Emerson building was closed at the end of the 1984-85 school year and the building and land sold to the City of Wichita. It has since been demolished and the site is now a parking lot for City employees. The Emerson program moved to the closed Garrison Elementary School at 2330 W. 15th for the start of the 1985-86 school year, and the building renamed Emerson Elementary School. In 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8), and elementary schools housed K-5 students. Emerson maintains an enrollment of 250 K-5 students.

The staff and parents of Emerson petitioned the administration to become a teacher governance model school at the start of the 1993-94 school year, operating without a principal. Teachers, with the help of other staff and parents, operate the program.

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Emerson received a new addition that includes a multipurpose room and kitchen. The district utilized Architectural Development Svcs. LLC and Rainbow Construction Co. to complete the Bond project remodel and addition for the amount of \$1,559,100.

Emerson's Bond dedication ceremony was held on September 23, 2004.

## Enterprise

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Before annexation in 1963-64 to the Wichita Public School System, Enterprise Elementary School was one of the two schools in District 15. Enterprise School District 15 was organized in 1875 with half a dozen or so pupils.

The schoolhouse was located first at the corner of Broadway and MacArthur Road. Church was held in the building and, according to the old timers, a number of men jacked up the structure one Sunday after church in 1880 or 1881 and moved it to the location at 3612 South Seneca. The work was done before the opposition could get an injunction to stop them. The courthouse, of course, was closed.

The school, by 1885, had grown to 14 pupils with Robert O. Melie as teacher. In 1888, a new and larger building was erected with two rows of seats on each side and a large pot bellied stove which occupied the center of the room. That building served the district until the 1918-19 school year when a two-room modern brick schoolhouse was built. Enrollment had risen to 62

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pupils by 1924, and the need for more room brought about construction of two more rooms by 1926. Three of the rooms were used for classrooms until 1943. The fourth room served as a music room and meeting place. It was in the spare room that the PTA was organized in 1933 with 26 members.

Addition of three more classrooms and an auditorium in 1949-50 helped relieve crowding. A five-room addition was constructed in 1952, and more classrooms were added in 1954 and 1956.

The last major addition to the building was completed in 1958. Enrollment increased rapidly the next year or two, and it was necessary to locate three classrooms of fifth grade across the street in the National Guard Armory until completion of a new school. South Enterprise, located at 2101 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street South, opened in the fall of 1961 to house grades five through eight. At this time Enterprise School was named North Enterprise, and grades one through four were taught.

After annexation to the Wichita School system in 1963-64, the name was changed back to Enterprise, and South Enterprise was renamed Clyde V. Cessna.

In 1975-76, Enterprise consisted of 26 permanent classrooms and two portable classrooms housing a school population of approximately 500.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program. In 1991, Enterprise began a new growth surge to 600-plus students and implemented a prekindergarten program.

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PBA Architects, P.A. designed a three-section elementary school prototype for Allen, Linwood and Enterprise schools. The new Enterprise allowed for the removal of portable classrooms. Both Enterprise and Allen were built by Eby Construction Co. for a total of \$10,273,000. Upon completion, the dedication ceremony was held October 21, 2003.

Staff, students, and the community love the new facility provided by the district. The old building was removed and the property was then utilized by South High School.

## Franklin

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Franklin Elementary School, named after Benjamin Franklin, dates back to 1886 when a two-story brick building replaced the one-room frame structure on the present site. Later additions in 1901, 1905 and 1911 increased the number of classrooms from six to sixteen. Franklin School had an enrollment of 605 (grades one through eight) during the 1911-12 school year. Grades seven and eight were moved to intermediate school in 1921. Franklin PTA was organized in 1921-22 with Mrs. W.A. Mendenhall as president. Enrollment increased to 771.

In 1940-41, the Franklin PTA engaged Glenn Schaeffer, architect, to inspect the building. After reporting Franklin as a fire trap and generally in an unsafe condition, the Wichita Board of Education called for a bond election of \$512,500 for Irving, Franklin, Kellogg and Harry Street schools. The bond issue passed on November 3, 1940 and construction on a new building started on April 18, 1941.

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During construction, students attended classes in ten different schools as well as Trinity Methodist Church. Miss Gertrude Dowd became known as the "Circuit Riding Principal" as she had to ride a bus from school to school to fulfill her supervisory duties. The present building was open for classes on October 20, 1941. Official dedication services were held November 24, 1941.

During the year 1954-55, several portable classrooms were added to the Franklin site. Special education classes were housed at Franklin during the years 1953 to 1965. Franklin became a Title I school during the 1965-66 school year. In 1967, the library was enlarged to its present size.

In 1980, the office was remodeled and in 1983, alterations were made to the teacher's lounge. In 1992, the boiler was replaced. In 1995, all windows were replaced with thermal pane steel windows.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of approximately 250 students.

In 1995, Franklin shared a principal with Field Elementary School.

In April 2000, the voters of the Wichita School District approved a \$284.5 million bond issue. The projects began in the fall of 2000 and were completed over the next five years. The plan built 19 multipurpose rooms, upgraded science labs, replaced portable classrooms with permanent construction, improved handicap accessibility to all buildings, rebuilt five existing elementary schools, added a new elementary and middle school, expanded seven other elementary schools and provided nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

The district utilized Spangenberg Phillips Architecture to develop Franklin's Bond Issue project. Conco, Inc. completed the construction, during which Franklin received a new addition that included 5 classrooms, a library, a multipurpose room, and a new kitchen. Renovation to classrooms, student support and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor restrooms were also included. The remodel and addition cost \$2,471,600 to complete. The Bond project dedication ceremony was held October 24, 2002.

In the following school year, the district purchased property at 119 S. Martinson for \$55,000 to replace property that was lost during the Bond construction. This property is adjacent to Franklin and is used as a playground area.

## Gammon

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It was with an eye to the future that the Board of Education, on September 15, 1975, purchased land in southeast Wichita for a new elementary school. Three years later, another site was purchased in northeast Wichita for the same purpose. On August 4, 1980, the architectural firm of Griffith and Bonham was appointed to design two elementary school buildings, identical in plan but not in finish, to be located on these two sites.

E.W. Johnson, Inc. was awarded the building contract for both locations in the amount of approximately \$3,250,000 per building. Construction began in September 1982 and the doors opened for 506 students at the northeast site in August 1984 and named Delore O. Gammon Elementary School.

Miss Gammon became assistant superintendent in charge of elementary education in 1953, and in 1958 Miss Gammon became director of elementary curriculum. She retired in 1966. She had attained the highest position any woman ever had in the Wichita Public Schools system at that time. She died September 30, 1981.

Already overcrowded, the Gammon pre-kindergarten program was moved to Minneha Elementary School in 1985-86. That

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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year enrollment reached 563. Kindergartners from Gammon were moved to Minneha, for one year only, in 1987-88. The staff was involved in a Mastery Learning pilot project for five years. The project concluded in the spring of 1987.

Beginning the 1988-89 school year, fifth and sixth graders were sent to the re-opened Kistler School which was referred to as the Gammon Annex. Both fifth and sixth graders from the Annex left for the newly created Coleman Middle School in 1989. From 1989-1993, third graders were sent to the Annex. After four years at the Annex, third graders eagerly anticipated being on the same campus with other grades. After much thought and planning, it was decided kindergartners should be the class of choice for the Annex. Parents were happy with this choice because they did not have to worry about the older students running over their youngsters.

The Annex was chosen to be the site of the new Leicle Bostic Traditional Magnet School beginning with the 1994-95 school year. Gammon lost around 60 children to Bostic. For the first time since Gammon opened in 1984, the facility was able to hold all of the students K-5.

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National Contractors, Inc. was hired to complete the Beech, Gammon and Isely Bond projects. Gammon's Bond project dedication ceremony was held January 19, 2006.

## Gardiner

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In 1912-13, a two-room school opened at the corner of Levy and Ida. Due to its location, the building was called Levy Street School. This school served grades one through six and was utilized until 1924 when a new building was constructed on the site.

The new school opened in September, 1924. Built by F.C. Randel, the structure consisted of two stories with five classrooms and the office upstairs, and three classrooms and two restrooms downstairs. In March 1925, the name was officially changed to the Laura V. Gardiner Elementary School in honor of Laura Gardiner, one of the first women to be elected to the Board of Education of the Wichita Public Schools. She served from 1913-1920.

Student population continued to grow to a point that in 1930 four additional classrooms on the north wing were added. The two classrooms upstairs were divided with a folding door between them and a stage at one end to be used as an auditorium. During this year the school's first library was opened.

Following World War II new homes were being built faster than the school could accommodate the increase in student population, and the overflow was transported to other schools. In 1948, six additional classrooms were added to the south wing of the original building. Three classrooms were upstairs and three were downstairs. This provided adequate room for students until the 1951-52 school year when the enrollment reached 968. Due to this enrollment increase, the school had to go on double shifts, one from 7:45 - Noon and the other from 12:30 - 4:45pm. The double shifts lasted until the end of the first semester of the 1952-53 school year.

In 1984 Gardiner received a media room, multipurpose room, music room, and additional restrooms. The office was also renovated at that time.



In April 2000, with the help of the Bond Issue, Gardiner received a new addition including six classrooms. Renovations were also made including improvements to the 2nd floor restrooms. Through the Bond process, the district purchased four houses and the area was used for a new playground area.

In July 2004, the address of Gardiner Elementary was changed to reflect the new entrance.

Gardiner currently has 23 total classrooms.

## Griffith

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Colonel Bruce Griffith Elementary School was erected to relieve the crowded conditions existing at Allen and South Hillside schools. In establishing boundaries, a part of the Schweiter School district was included. The school was opened for classes October 24, 1958, with Miss Mabel Oberwortmann, principal; a staff of 12 teachers and 369 pupils.

Griffith School is located on 5.2 acres on the northwest corner of the L.W. Clapp Golf Course. The ground was donated to the Board of Education by the Park Department of the City of Wichita. Construction was commenced April 21, 1958 by E.W. Johnson Construction Company and completed October 15, 1958 at an approximate cost of \$275,000. Ralph L. Hollis was the architect. The building consists of 13 classrooms, a library which was expanded in 1970, multipurpose room with stage, faculty room, workroom, general office, principal's office, and boiler and custodian's rooms plus storage space. In 1987, the library was air conditioned.

In 1989, Griffith was combined with South Hillside. Griffith housed grades 3-5 and South Hillside housed K-2 students with one principal for both schools.

Colonel Bruce Griffith, in whose memory the school was named, came to Wichita from New York in 1893, as minister of Brown Memorial Reform Church. He left the ministry in 1910 to enter the insurance field. He joined the National Guard and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in World War I. In 1930, he was appointed by President Herbert Hoover as Postmaster of Wichita, a position he held for a number of years. Because of his interest in education, he was elected to the Wichita Board of Education and served for 20 years. He died in 1956 at the age of 88 years.

In April 2000, the voters of the Wichita School District approved a \$284.5 million bond issue. The projects began in the fall of 2000 and were completed over the next five years. The plan built 19 multipurpose rooms, upgraded science labs, replaced portable classrooms with permanent construction, improved handicap accessibility to all buildings, rebuilt five existing elementary schools, added a new elementary and middle school, expanded seven other elementary schools and provided nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

The architectural firm of Gossen Livingston Associates, Inc. and construction company E.W. Johnson helped give Griffith the update it needed. Griffith received a new addition including a library, 14 classrooms and a kitchen, and the student support area was remodeled as well. The district used Bond issue dollars, FEMA and Capital Outlay to complete the addition and renovation project, for an estimated total cost of \$3,208,000. The dedication ceremony was held April 3, 2003.

## Harry Street

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Recorded historical facts about Wichita are often incomplete as well as sometimes slightly inaccurate. So it was found in compiling material concerning Harry Street School.

Around 1889 there became a need for a school in South Wichita. It was decided to locate the school "one and one-half miles south of the Post Office," then located at Market and William. Twelve lots costing \$1,350 were purchased on Market Street. Another 12 lots were purchased on Harry Street at Main at a cost of \$2,400. Because of the location of the building, it was named Harry Street Elementary School.

The first school housed only the fifth and sixth grades. The other grades remained at Lincoln School. About 1906, the first building was replaced by a brick structure which remained in use until 1922 when a new building was built. This building contained 12 classrooms and an auditorium. In 1941, an addition of four classrooms, an office and a health room was completed. This building remains in use today.

The old building remained in use for overflow students who were bused in from other schools that were overcrowded. It was later used for surplus storage until its demolition in 1954.

Harry Street School, once in the extreme south edge of Wichita, is now near the center of the fast growing city. The school is surrounded on two sides with commercial buildings. For several years, the enrollment has remained around 350 pupils.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program.

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With the Bond issue construction, Harry Street received a new addition including a multipurpose room, kitchen, library and four classrooms, as well as renovations including the student support area and 2nd floor restrooms. The district approved Architectural Innovations, LLC and Hutton Construction, Corp. to complete this project.

In January 2001, FEMA announced a grant providing \$444,762 to help construct safe rooms at Harry Street and various other schools throughout the district.

The USD 259 School District purchased property at 1629 and 1631 S. Market, and also 1636 S. Main to expand the property and construct the new building. This expansion created a new main entrance for the school; the address was changed accordingly.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held on May 1, 2003.

## Hyde International Studies and Communications Magnet

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The A.A. Hyde Elementary School was completed in late 1929 and opened for classes in early February 1930 with seven of its nine rooms in use. A late winter blizzard presented many problems to the students in getting to and from the new school. The area between Oliver and Eastborough was open prairie.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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The school was named for Mr. A.A. Hyde of Mentholatum fame, a Wichita well-known for his philanthropic work and deep interest in the youth of the city. He reserved space on his large lawn for baseball diamonds so every boy in the neighborhood would always have a place where he could play ball. He provided many underprivileged children with opportunities for summer camp.

Mr. Hyde was quite interested in the new school and visited it frequently. On one occasion he presented the boys of the school with a picture of himself fishing from a raft on Beaver Dam near his lodge in Estes Park. He held the picture up and asked who they thought it was. The third grade boys shouted, "Robinson Crusoe!"

Mr. Hyde was the honored guest at the first Open House held on May 2, 1930 by the recently organized PTA with Mrs. Otto Souders as president. This was an active group which grew in numbers as the school enrollment increased. The PTA helped with many projects for the benefit of the school, such as the establishment of a library.

The first addition to the school, consisting of an auditorium and two classrooms, was built in 1938. Continued growth made it necessary to divide the auditorium into classrooms. A second addition in 1948 was built which included four classrooms, a health room and kitchen. The library, which had been established in 1938, was moved to the north corridor so the room it had occupied could be used for another classroom.

The year of 1951 brought Hyde a "double shift" program when the primary students from the new Munger School were housed in the Hyde School until the Munger building was completed. Further relief from overcrowded conditions came with the opening of Fabrique School. Peak enrollments of 500-plus in the early 1950s dropped to a more comfortable 425-450 in the late 1950s and early 1960s. In recent years the enrollment has been from 300 to 350.

Trees and shrubs on the grounds were planted by the departing sixth graders each Arbor Day except for the large Austrian Pine which stands near the west entrance. Mr. Alfred McDonald of the Park Board planted this six- to seven-foot high tree in the fall of 1931 to use as an outdoor Christmas tree.

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Centennial Tree was planted in the fall of 1991. The seedling was donated to the school by KG&E and came from the mother tree which stands on the Eisenhower lawn in Abilene, Kansas. It stands near the building on the northwest section of the campus. It bore its first redbuds in the spring of 1995.

The school became Hyde International Communications Magnet in 1991. Global awareness and communications is integrated throughout the base curriculum.

At the November 10, 1997, Board of Education Meeting, representatives from the Hyde Site Council proposed the construction of a new multi-purpose room for their school. Funding for this project would be provided through a partnership between the district and the parents, staff and supporters of Hyde. Based on the estimated cost of \$500,000 for this project, the proposal presented to the Board involved a total of 75% (\$375,000) to come from district capital outlay, with remaining 25% (\$125,000) from fundraising by the school and supporters. The duration of the fundraising efforts was anticipated to be two years. On June 8, 1998, Board of Education signed the Hyde Multi-Purpose Room Funding Partnership Agreement.

On June 4, 1999, Hyde exceeded its goal of \$125,000. The district retained Wilson Darnell Mann Architectural/ Engineering firm for construction of a hardened "safe" area for the multi-purpose room addition.

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The Board of Education approved contracts with architects Wilson Darnell Mann, P.A., and with Bauer and Sons Construction  
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## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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Co. to complete this addition and renovation project. Hyde received an expansion to the library, the student support area was moved to the main floor, restrooms were updated, and a new addition that included two classrooms was added.

Hyde's 314 students entered the brand new multipurpose room for the first time in April of 2001 and on September 25, 2001 the Multipurpose Room Dedication was held.

### Irving

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Irving, located now at 1642 North Market, is one of the oldest school districts in Wichita. The school opened in a one-room, four-grade frame building in what was at that time called the Fourth Ward. The exact date when this small building was erected and opened for school is not known.

Miss Leida Mills taught in the old building for a number of years starting in 1884. In 1887, a new building facing Lawrence Road (now Broadway) was erected. This building was designed by Proudfoot and Bird, architects, and contained eight classrooms. Miss Mills was the first principal. Irving was named for Washington Irving, American essayist, novelist and historian.

Until the construction of Waco Elementary School in 1907, the Irving district was larger than it is at present. The school included grades one through eight until the construction of Horace Mann Intermediate School. For many years Irving was located in the heart of one of the finest residential areas of Wichita and was attended by children of prominent citizens.

The building constructed in 1887 was replaced in 1941 by the present building designed by Lorenz Schmidt. This colonial type building facing Market Street was expanded by portables to accommodate the growing population. The enrollment averaged about 400 pupils and at times exceeded 500. Since the building capacity was 350, it was necessary to divide the auditorium and to erect seven portables on the campus. The 1974 bond election provided funds to add a multipurpose room, six classrooms, restrooms and to convert the old multipurpose room to a library. Woodman and Van Doren were the architects for this addition which was completed in 1976.

In 1989, Irving was combined with Horace Mann and Park elementaries to become a foreign language magnet elementary school with grades PK-2 housed at Irving and Park, and 3-5 housed at Horace Mann. Until 1995, the building administrator was considered an assistant principal. In 1995, the campus administrator was designated as principal.

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To have sufficient space to complete the Irving remodel and construction, the district purchased property at 1620-22 N. Market. With the help of architects Law Kingdom, Inc. and Rainbow Construction, Irving received a new addition including six classrooms and renovations for both student support and the 2nd floor restrooms. Additional parking was added to the school, and the bus loading/unloading areas were upgraded.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held October 29, 2002.

## Isely Traditional Magnet

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Since the construction of Isely Elementary School was not completed for the fall of 1949-50, children in the afternoon half of the double shift at Fairmount School were selected to attend the new school. On November 10, 1949, Isely, the city's most ultramodern school building, was opened with 425 students. The cost of the school designed by Schmidt, McVay and Peddie was \$425,000.

The school was named in honor of the late W.H. Isely, first dean of Fairmount College and prominent civic leader. The building is of buff colored brick, single-story construction in the shape of an "E" which permits all 16 classrooms to receive light and air from both sides of the room, an innovation at that time in Wichita school buildings.

Radiant heating pipes are imbedded in the floor and individual sanitary facilities in the kindergarten and first three grades' rooms. The upper-grade classrooms were installed in a parallel wing, entering into a corridor providing individual lockers. The vertical portion of the "E" contains a library, workroom, health room, lounge and the school office.

Miss Laura Houk was the first building principal to administer the school. Isely was the 38th grade school built in the system and opened with a staff of 14 classroom teachers. During the school year 1950-51, the Isely student population grew from 425 to 620. The next school year, 1951-52, the student population grew to 783 with 22 classroom teachers.

The 1967-68 school year produced the highest enrollment figure with over 900 pupils in attendance. Twenty-one annexes were used to house the growing student population.

By 1970-71, Isely had a student body that was 99 percent black, and in 1971-72, the school was closed in accordance with the integration plan adopted by the Board of Education at that time. On February 1, 1973, Isely was reopened as an integrated school serving pupils with exceptional abilities in grades four, five and six. The children who attended were identified and recommended for participation by school principals and staff, with final selection made by a screening committee. The instructional program was designed to foster the unusual abilities of the children. The enrollment was maintained at approximately 225.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program and Isely's name was changed from Isely Alternative School to Isely Enrichment Magnet School with grades 3-5.

In August 1993, Isely became a school governance pilot school. Richard Davis was half time principal, half time teacher. In 1994, the school returned to regular status with a full time principal.

At the April 8, 1996 meeting, the Board of Education approved the closing of the Isely School building at the end of the 1995-96 school year, and the entire program relocated to Mueller Elementary building as a school-within-a-school.

In the summer of 1997, the Board of Education gave approval to re-open the Isely building to house an Edison School. The Board of Education approved the name change to Isely Edison Academy. The enrollment for the 1997-98 school year began with approximately 280 students. Students who attended Isely Edison Academy went through an application process. This school offered: an extended school day - so students have more time for learning and to provide time for learning the arts, foreign languages, and physical education; a longer school year - students attend school 206 days a year; a computer in the home of every student - to promote regular communication among parents, teachers and students and to make advanced technology an integral part of the child's future.

At the end of the 2001-2002 school year, the Edison program at Isely was stopped, and Isely became a traditional Magnet School beginning with the 2002-2003 school year.

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## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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elementary schools, added a new elementary and middle school, expanded seven other elementary schools and provided nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

The district hired National Contractors, Inc. to complete the Beech, Gammon and Isely Bond projects. Isely received infrastructure (new air-conditioning and heating).

### Jackson

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The District contracted with Charles F. McAfee FAIA NOMA, P.A. for architectural and engineering services, and utilized Simpson and Associates Construction Co. to complete the new 600-student elementary school. A groundbreaking ceremony was held Monday, October 7, 2002.

On February 10, 2003, the Board of Education approved the name, Abner Val Jean Jackson Elementary. Mr. Jackson was a member of many local organizations and offered support and resources to those in need and frequently asked for those contributions not to be made public. He sponsored numerous local scholarships, continuing education funds and community events aimed at providing higher education opportunities to students. He adopted Seltzer Elementary School and provided financial resources to the school and individual students.

The school opened in the Fall of 2004. The Bond Celebration was held on November 18, 2004.

### Jefferson

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When the Hilltop Manor housing addition was opened to accommodate the growth of the aircraft industry in Wichita, a school was needed to supply educational facilities for the children moving into the area. To solve this problem, Thomas Jefferson Elementary School was established.

The site was bought by the Board of Education for \$4,900 in June 1938. In 1941, the site was deeded to the federal government for \$1 with the agreement the government would build a school on the land and then lease the property to the school district of Wichita for operating a school. The option was given to the Board of Education to buy the property if they wished to do so. The building, when completed in 1942, cost \$133,358.06. The government furnished equipment for the building costing \$5,861. The Board of Education furnished additional equipment totaling about \$600.

On March 1, 1949, the Board of Education re-acquired the deed to the land and purchased the building for \$65,000. Also in 1949, additional ground was purchased for \$9,000, which nearly doubled the original site.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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School first opened September 8, 1942 with an enrollment of about 640 pupils and a staff of 14 teachers. The building could not accommodate all of the children, so several classes were housed in other buildings in the area.

The beginning enrollment on September 3, 1946 of 755 was the largest of any elementary school in Kansas at that time. In 1947-48, 916 students were enrolled and classes had to be held in shifts. Caldwell, Fabrique and Munger Elementary schools were built in 1950 and 1951 to relieve the overcrowded conditions in the Jefferson School area.

Jefferson School has had a gradually declining enrollment from 638 pupils in 1952 to stabilize at approximately 250 in the 90s. In 1975-76, two Learning Disabilities rooms were added and students were transported to the school to achieve racial balance. In 1987, the office was remodeled.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a PK-5 enrollment of around 250.

In 1990, Jefferson became naturally integrated with neighborhood children. The need to bus children for racial balance was ended.

In 1995, Jefferson shared a principal with Sunnyside.

On April 5, 1999, a tornado caused an estimated \$300,000 damage to three portable buildings, the roof of the main building, and destroyed numerous supply and content items. Jefferson received a multipurpose room, which provided a "storm safer area" and the building's extension was divided into classrooms. In August 1999, the Board authorized PBA Architects to prepare the construction drawings and to obtain bids for the addition. In January 2000, the Board authorized a construction contract in the total amount of \$586,296 with Descon, Inc. to construct the multi-purpose addition. On January 24, 2001, the safe room/multipurpose room was officially dedicated.

In April 2000, the voters of the Wichita School District approved a \$284.5 million bond issue. The projects began in the fall of 2000 and were completed over the next five years. The plan built 19 multipurpose rooms, upgraded science labs, replaced portable classrooms with permanent construction, improved handicap accessibility to all buildings, rebuilt five existing elementary schools, added a new elementary and middle school, expanded seven other elementary schools and provided nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

The district authorized work with PBA Architects, P.A. and Walz Harman Huffman Construction Co., Inc. With this, Jefferson received a new addition including a library and eight classrooms.

The renovations were completed and the dedication ceremony was held September 26, 2002.

### **Kelly Liberal Arts Academy**

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Mary Kelly Elementary School came into existence in 1954 as a result of the growth of Wichita in the southwest area of the city. From 1954 to 1957, the school operated completely with the use of portables. In these three years the enrollment jumped from a bare beginning of 183 students to 700 students. At one time, 21 portables constituted Kelly School.

In 1957, the first permanent classrooms were constructed. The new building was dedicated November 10, 1957 during American Education Week. The building consisted of 14 classrooms and, with the use of existing portables, enrollment climbed to a high of 961 in 1962.



With enrollment trends increasing, a permanent addition was added in 1962. The addition was a uniquely new concept of construction for Wichita Public Schools. The 14 new classrooms were contained in a circular building which was heated electrically. Another new concept was the four-unit library located in the hub of the 22,000 square foot wheel. The addition was opened for the 1962-63 school year and, due to boundary changes in the area, enrollment leveled off to average around the 900 level. As the area has grown older and the sixth graders moved to middle school, the enrollment averages around 350.

The school was named for Mary Kelly, the sister of J.C. Kelly of the Wheeler-Kelly-Hagny Investment Company of Wichita. Mary Kelly taught mathematics in Wichita Public Schools for 47 years. Her first assignment in 1892 was at Irving Elementary School where she taught for nine years. She then spent one year at the old high school, now WATC Central Campus, before becoming head of the mathematics department at the new Wichita High School East where she remained until retirement in 1939.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of around 350.

On February 12, 1996, the Board of Education unanimously approved changing the name of Kelly Elementary School to Kelly Elementary Liberal Arts Academy.

In April 2000, the voters of the Wichita School District approved a \$284.5 million bond issue. The projects began in the fall of 2000 and were completed over the next five years. The plan built 19 multipurpose rooms, upgraded science labs, replaced portable classrooms with permanent construction, improved handicap accessibility to all buildings, rebuilt five existing elementary schools, added a new elementary and middle school, expanded seven other elementary schools and provided nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

In January 2001, FEMA announced a grant providing \$444,762 to help construct safe rooms at Kelly and various schools throughout the district.

The district worked with architectural firm Gossen Livingston Associates, Inc. to design the addition and renovations. Construction company Simpson and Associates completed the Bond project. Kelly received a new addition including a multipurpose room, kitchen and five classrooms. Renovations were also made to the library, computer and student support areas.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held April 16, 2003.

## Kensler

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Pearl Kensler was the third school built in District 69 and was located in Country Acres, bounded by Wilbur Lane, School and Tenth Streets. The school was named in honor of Miss Pearl Kensler, a Kansas educator who was a teacher from 1895 to 1950, and from 1950 to 1957 was Sedgwick County Superintendent.

Delayed by one bond election defeat, the school of nine classrooms for grades kindergarten through eight was still under construction in September 1958. By then it had become obvious that the building would be inadequate for the school enrollment. The 1958-59 school year began with Country Acres pupils being bused to temporary quarters in the district. Fourth through eighth grades at Peterson School went on double shifts to accommodate corresponding Kensler grades. When the Kensler building was completed in February, 1959, approximately 280 children in kindergarten through sixth grade

moved in. Fifty seventh and eighth graders completed the year at Peterson.

A bond issue had been voted in January 1959 for an addition of six classrooms and an auditorium. This was completed early the following October, and all eight grades, 372 pupils, were in the building. However, the heavy enrollment in kindergarten and a preschool census indicated further space needs.

Annexation by Wichita in early 1960 relieved the building crisis temporarily. Since grades seven and eight attended Hadley, there was sufficient room for the remaining grades. Additional services which the county school did not have were also provided. These included library space and staff, a speech therapist, nurse and music instructors.

Three portables were moved to Kensler for the 1961-62 school term. Enrollment increases required additional portables each year until in 1966-67 a total of nine had been added. In 1967-68, four classrooms of pupils were bused to McCollom School. Busing was continued for the 1968-69 school term.

The space north of the school site between Tenth and Warren Streets was acquired in 1967. Tenth Street was closed and the playground area enlarged. A major addition to Kensler was approved by the Wichita Board of Education and construction began November 1968. The \$750,000 addition, consisting of 20 classrooms and a large library complex, opened at the beginning of the 1969-70 school year with an enrollment of 753. The new building had sufficient space to accommodate four classrooms of Follow Through.

During the 1985-86 year, a computer lab was developed and enrollment reached 650. Due to the loss of sixth graders to middle school in 1989, and the moving of Special Ed programs around the city, Kensler's enrollment averaged 525.

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The district utilized PBA Architects, P.A. and Brecko Construction Co. to give Kensler a new addition including five classrooms and a kitchen, as well as renovations for student support.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held September 19, 2002.

### **L'Ouverture Computer Technology Magnet**

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Under the principalship of Fred C. West, a 15-room school located at 13th and Mosley was established in 1912. The school was named after the famous French Negro General of Haiti, Roussaint L'Ouverture. Approximately 300 pupils were enrolled.

L'Ouverture district included black children in grades K-6 living north of 11th Street and west of Santa Fe and all black children in grades seven and eight. Children living a long distance from school were transported. In 1923, three additional rooms were built, and later a playroom in the basement was converted into two classrooms.

Upon Mr. West's retirement in 1937, Ferdinand L. Barnett was transferred from Dunbar to L'Ouverture as principal. Under his leadership, plans for a new L'Ouverture were formulated; however, his death in 1947 prevented Mr. Barnett from seeing his dream come true. The plans were realized in 1951 under John R. Carter, principal (1947-67), when the new L'Ouverture located at 1539 Ohio was completed. The building consisted of 17 classrooms, library, office, health room and other facilities.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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Included on the staff were the librarian, nurse, secretary and instrumental music teacher who served scheduled days at the school. Enrollment at the opening was 620 in grades K-6. The 1949-50 school year was the last year grades seven and eight were enrolled at L'Ouverture.

When Little School was opened in 1954, the east boundary became Hydraulic, and 19th Street became the boundary between Skinner and L'Ouverture. When Skinner School (21st and Hydraulic) was closed, the north boundary of L'Ouverture was moved from 19th to 27th Street. Peak enrollment of 658 was reached in 1953-54, and three portable units were added. Another peak of 500 in 1958-59 led to a boundary change of 11th to 12th Street between Dunbar and L'Ouverture. After that year, declining enrollments reflected the eastward movement of population and gradual industrialization of L'Ouverture district.

A program of voluntary integration was initiated at L'Ouverture in 1970-71. Sixty-three white families voluntarily participated in the experiment, and the school enrollment for the year was 28 percent white. In 1971-72, the school was integrated through the transportation of black children to schools outside the area and white children to L'Ouverture. The enrollment was stabilized at approximately 250-300 pupils with about 75 percent white children.

In 1992, L'Ouverture became L'Ouverture Computer Technology Magnet Elementary School. Enrollment rose to 375 students, 40 percent of those African-American. The building includes an extensive computer network, television station, and telecommunication connections.

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With the Bond issue, L'Ouverture received a new addition including six classrooms, a multipurpose room and a kitchen, and renovations to the student support area. To complete these projects, the district utilized the services of PBA Architects and Compton Construction Corp.

L'Ouverture's technology was upgraded in 2007 to provide our 2:1 students to computer ratio, a laptop for every teacher, and projector and SMARTboard for every classroom. Classrooms were also equipped with digital cameras and video cameras. Students participate in global collaboration projects through the use of a video conferencing Polycom Unit.

## Lawrence

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Lawrence Elementary School was actually completed in the spring of 1953 and used as an annex for Meridian Elementary School that spring. It was officially opened as a school in the fall of 1953. Glenn E. Benedick was the architect for the 14-room building which cost approximately \$190,000. Dedication ceremonies were held November 15, 1953.

Oscar Carr, principal of Meridian, supervised the building in the spring of 1953. Fern Ritter was appointed principal when the school opened in the fall of 1953 and stayed in that capacity through the peak enrollment years of the 1950s until 1966. The enrollment decline in the 1960s can largely be attributed to development of commercial areas in the district and removal of housing. The student population averages around 425.

An addition of seven classrooms, a library, a multipurpose room, office and restrooms was constructed in 1976. Platt Associates were the architects. The approximate cost of the addition was \$665,000.

## Excerpts from “A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings”

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The school was named for Robert E. Lawrence who came to Wichita as a young man, arriving here in May 1870. He made his way on foot to Illinois, selling stencils to earn his way. He taught a short term of school in Illinois and thus was able to buy a team and wagon to complete the journey into Kansas.

Soon after his arrival in Wichita he homesteaded a quarter section of land south and west of Maple and Seneca Streets where he farmed and raised cattle. Today, the Kansas Masonic Home stands upon the site of Maplewood, the spacious stone residence that Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence completed in 1888.

As the city expanded, Mr. Lawrence engaged in various business enterprises: banking, real estate operations and commercial building construction. Along with his business activities, Mr. Lawrence devoted much time to civic affairs. He was an early member of the Wichita Board of Education, served in the Kansas State Legislature, and through his lifetime was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of around 450.

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The Bond project gave Lawrence a new addition, including four classrooms and a student support center. The district utilized Architectural Innovations LLC and Robl Commercial Construction to complete this project.

The project bond celebration was held November 23, 2004.

### **Lewis Open Magnet**

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The Chester I. Lewis Open Magnet Elementary School moved into the old Knight building in 1991. The school was named after prominent black Wichita citizen Chester I. Lewis, attorney and civil rights activist.

Originally, the Knight Elementary School district was created from a part of the Enterprise district and in 1954 included an area bounded by Pawnee on the north, Seneca on the west, 35<sup>th</sup> Street on the south and the Arkansas River on the east. Two years later the district was divided to create Sim Elementary School, and the south boundary was moved north.

Construction of Robert F. Knight Elementary School, named in memory of Robert F. Knight who was Superintendent of Schools from 1901-1911, began in June 1954, immediately after the wheat was harvested from the building site. Before school opened in September, 16 portable units had been erected on the northeast corner of the six and one-quarter acre site located at Osage and 29<sup>th</sup> Street South. At that time, the east-west street adjacent to the school campus on the north, and now known as 29<sup>th</sup> Street South, was referred to as Ellen Street by residents of the area. The building was initiated the first year by a severe storm which tore the roof from two or three units while school was in session.

Because of increased enrollment, the school plant was enlarged to 22 units in 1955. A year later Sim Elementary School was created, and the units added in 1955 were moved to the Sim site.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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The permanent building, costing a total of \$226,213, was designed by architects W.I. Fisher and Company with Weller Construction Company as the general contractor. Construction of the permanent building at the southwest corner of the site was completed in 1957, and all portable units were removed from the campus that year. A dedication ceremony was held April 13, 1958. Enrollment increased again, and one portable unit was added in 1958. A year later, continued increases in enrollment made it necessary to add two more portable units, and because this enrollment continued to remain fairly stable, a restroom unit was added in 1966.

At the time Knight was constructed there were no paved streets or sidewalks, a condition which prevailed for several years. As a result of vigorous efforts on the part of school officials, the Parent-Teacher Association, and other concerned citizens, Osage Street was paved and sidewalks constructed in 1960. Sandburs and mud were serious problems that plagued the school for many years, and work crews were organized by the school to plant grass for the playground. Twenty-ninth Street South was not paved until the summer of 1969.

Knight was closed at the end of the 1983-84 school year and the portables removed. It was utilized as a Staff Development Center until August 1991 when it was reverted back to classroom use as the Chester I. Lewis Open Magnet School. Staff Development moved its operations to the Administrative Center and the Vo-Tech Center.

During its first year of operation in 1990 the school operated as the Woodman Open Magnet and was housed in one wing of Woodman Elementary School. Lewis Open Magnet currently houses ten classrooms with an enrollment of 250 students.

During the 1993-94 school year, Lewis was selected as a site for the O.W.L.S. project. Wildflowers and grasses were planted in different areas to promote wildlife activity. Ducks and other birds have used the site for nesting. Student academic studies have included work in the butterfly garden, prairie area and tulip garden.

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Hanney and Associates Architects completed the plans for Lewis to upgrade/replace infrastructure. The district entered into a contract with Professional Mechanical Contractor, Inc. to complete the Bond project.

## Lincoln

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The first Lincoln Elementary School, designed by Proudfoot and Bird, architects, opened in November of 1885 with three members on the teaching staff. They were Etta Fellows, Ora Stanley, and principal May Gibson, who was later Mrs. W.H. Culp. The original building cost \$10,500 and the lot on which it was built cost \$1,500.

Carleton, Emerson, Park, "Old Washington" and Webster schools were in operation before 1885. Wichita grew from 5,400 in 1880 to 40,000 in 1888. During the winter of 1886-87, the teacher in the southeast upstairs room of the new Lincoln School could stand at one window and count more than a hundred new houses south and east of the building. The original six rooms continued to serve as classrooms and changed little during their 50 years of use.

Many civic and cultural leaders of the city were at one time connected with Lincoln School. From the architecture of the homes in the district, it is evident that during the booming era of early 1900, the patrons of Lincoln School would have been classed in the higher socioeconomic bracket. Following the depression years of the 1930s, many of these fine homes were

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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converted into apartments and rental units. The area began changing from residential to a partially commercial community as the pioneer families grew up or moved and were replaced by a more mobile society.

A new wing of the building of 11 rooms was erected in 1938 featuring glass brick which admitted light, case stone for decorative paneling in brown at the building base, center and top, and the school name lettering. During the years a total of seven portable classrooms were added.

In 1976-77, a permanent addition was constructed which included three classrooms for educable mentally handicapped children, a new kitchen, office space, multipurpose room, speech room, math lab, mechanical room and restrooms. The old multipurpose area was remodeled for use as a media center, and other areas were converted into four additional classrooms. During the construction of the addition, construction workers dug up bricks displaying the Kansas sunflower which had been part of the original structure.

In 1991, all windows were replaced with thermal pane steel windows. In 1993, the boiler was replaced.

A student health center was built on the Lincoln site in December 1995. The Wichita/Sedgwick County Cities in Schools paid the \$172,668 for construction of the Health Children Center. The center provides primary care, dental and mental health services to children from West High feeder schools. The 2,250 square foot facility includes four medical exam rooms and one dental exam room. The center is a satellite of the Wichita Primary Care Center, a federally qualified community health center.

Funding for the center was from private sources including both local and national businesses and foundations. Donations of furniture and equipment were received from local businesses and individuals. Pediatric residents, medical students, nurse practitioner students and school nurses are trained in the center about school health problems, community pediatrics and multidisciplinary team functioning. The facility is staffed by Wichita/Sedgwick County Department of Health, Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services, Wichita Head Start, Sedgwick County Department of Mental Health and the Wichita Child Guidance Center.

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Places Architect and construction company Coonrod and Associates provided Lincoln with Bond project updates. Lincoln received a new addition including a library, health room and two new classrooms. Renovations were also made to existing classrooms and the 2nd floor restrooms.

The Bond celebration was held on February 10, 2005.

## Linwood

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Linwood Elementary School, 1340 Pattie, was built in 1910 after citizens in the area petitioned the Board of Education about the need for a school facility. The Board investigated sites for the construction, and on August 2, 1909, voted to buy 16 lots at the corner of Pattie and Zimmerly at a cost of \$3,760. At the request of patrons, the school was first called Sixth Ward Linwood; however, sometime during the years, it was shortened to Linwood.

The original building contained four classrooms and a basement and was constructed of brick. The interior had wooden floors

## Excerpts from “A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings”

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and stairways. When the school opened in the fall of 1910, it was found the four classrooms were not sufficient, so classes were held both in the basement and in the small office room. In 1911, a two-room annex was moved in, and during the summer of 1912, four permanent classrooms were added to the main building.

The Linwood Community grew and the increasing enrollment was accommodated by bringing in annex buildings from time to time. In April 1929, a delegation of citizens from the south part of the city presented a petition signed with about 400 names asking for the construction of an addition to the school. The petition was studied and approved, and architects chosen for the building were Schmidt, Boucher and Overend. The addition was completed in 1930 and increased the number of classrooms to 12.

The successful bond election of 1974 provided funds for site expansion and the construction of a multipurpose room, kitchen, restrooms and storage space. The addition was completed in 1977. In 1981, alterations were made to the library media center, and in 1985, a computer lab and special education lab were added.

Linwood housed K-6 students through 1988-89. Sixth graders were moved to middle school and Linwood was paired with Chisholm school. Chisholm houses grades K-2 and Linwood houses grades 3-5. The initial pairing of the two school communities met with varying degrees of resistance and acceptance. After a year of work, the two school communities were paired and the concept of one school at two sites evolved.

Chapter 1 services were available to Linwood until the 1995-96 school year. Chapter 1 re-authorization caused Linwood to lose Chapter 1 services.

Many of the former students of Linwood School still live in the district. Some of these people were here when the original construction of the building was completed. Today, students are attending Linwood whose parents and grandparents attended the school.

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The district utilized PBA Architects, P.A. to design a three-section elementary school prototype to be used for Linwood, Allen and Enterprise schools. A vote by the Board of Education approved the acquisition of property in South Linwood Park, and National Contractors, Inc. was contracted for \$5,306,000 to build the new Linwood Elementary School. Students entered the doors of the new school for the first time in March 2004.

The Bond project celebration was held on April 27, 2004.

## McCullom

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The C.H. McCullom School opened its doors to students on February 1, 1960, the fourth elementary school of School District 69. The rapid growth in the school population within the district, which included Peterson, Mary Benton and Pearl Kensler schools, created the need for an additional elementary school. The architectural firm of Hibbs and Pettit was engaged to design the building. The eight-acre site in the north Westlink area was located on the fringe of the existing housing development, and during the early years McCullom enjoyed a pastoral setting of open wheat fields and native grassland with abundant small animal and bird life.



## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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The school name was chosen by the PTA units of the three existing schools of the district to honor C.H. "Hub" McCollom who had been active in the west Wichita community as a school board member, director of the school board from 1955-1958, a township trustee and as an originator of youth recreational facilities for the area.

The eleven-classroom school opened in February 1960, with an enrollment of 272, a staff of ten classroom teachers and two special services teachers, principal, part-time secretary, and one custodian. In July 1960, School District 69 was attached to the Wichita School District for school purposes, and most of the improvement districts were annexed by the City of Wichita during the following year.

With the increasing enrollment, portable classroom units were moved to the school site beginning in 1962 and continuing until 1966 when six units were in use. To accommodate the continuing and projected growth of the McCollom residential area, the school board voted to construct a permanent major addition to the existing school. Ramey and Jones, architects, designed the new addition with ten classrooms, two kindergarten rooms, library, commons room, special services facilities and renovation of the existing building. A delay in the completion date of the new addition necessitated scheduling classes in shifts for several weeks at the beginning of the 1966 school term. Regular school hours were observed by the younger students while upper grade students were divided into early and late shifts to share the available space until the new addition was ready for occupancy in October 1966.

During the school terms of 1967 and 1968 several classrooms of children from Kensler School were bused to McCollom to utilize the extra classrooms space. In the summers of 1967 and 1968 McCollom was used as a Headstart Center and has also been used as a summer school center, in the summer library program and for Park Board summer recreation.

An addition consisting of a new multipurpose room and a new classroom was completed in 1976. One classroom was remodeled, and a surveillance system was installed. The architects for this addition were Calvin, Jones, Jelinek and Gegen.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of around 450.

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The district entered contracts with PBA Architects, P.A. and Brecko Construction Co. to complete the McCollom upgrades. The school received a new addition including four special education classrooms, as well as renovations for student support.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held October 10, 2002.

### **McLean Science and Technology Magnet**

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The McLean Elementary School was completed in September 1955 to serve a residential community of new homes. On the opening day of school 172 pupils were enrolled in kindergarten through sixth grade. These pupils had attended Cloud Elementary School the previous year. McLean was built to serve the newly annexed areas of Benjamin Hills, located west of Amidon, and the Riverlawn Addition immediately east of Amidon. The community is bounded on the east by the Little Arkansas River, on the south and west by the Big Arkansas River, and on the north by 25<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Excerpts from “A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings”

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The school was named for Benjamin Franklin McLean, a pioneer lumberman and banker in Wichita. Mr McLean came to Wichita in 1895 at the age of 36 from Poughkeepsie, New York, and six years later was owner of six lumber yards in Kansas towns. He served on the City Commission and in 1901 began serving his first of three terms as mayor of Wichita. In 1909, he purchased the Naftzger interest in the Fourth National Bank and served as president until 1919 at which time he intended to retire. He returned to the bank presidency in 1924 and served until his death on October 30, 1930.

The site for the building and playground was acquired by the Wichita Board of Education on November 25, 1953 from Anna McLean, executor of the Julia C. McLean Estate. The cost of the transaction was \$11,668 and included all of Lot 2 of Block 5 in Benjamin Hills Second Addition. The school is bounded on the north by Halstead, on the east by Marigold Lane, on the south by Dogwood, and on the west by Columbine Park.

The enrollment grew each year until a peak was reached in 1966 with a total enrollment of 502. It was necessary to construct eight portable classrooms during the 1958-1966 period to house the pupils. A gradual decline in enrollment occurred after 1966, finally stabilizing between 300 and 350.

In 1976, funds from the 1974 bond election financed an addition of two classrooms, a multipurpose room, a library, two restrooms, circulation space and expansion of office facilities. Charles F. McAfee was the architect for this construction. In 1991, the boiler was replaced.

One of the outstanding features of the McLean School site is its location, adjacent to Columbine Park, which provides an ideal play area for elementary age children.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program. In 1990, McLean became a neighborhood science/technology magnet school.

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With the help of architects Hanney & Associates, and Bauer and Son Construction Co., McLean received a new addition including four classrooms. The kitchen was also expanded and the student support area renovated.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held August 22, 2003.

### **Minneha Core Knowledge Magnet**

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Minneha is a Pawnee Indian word meaning “Happy Waters.” Minneha Elementary School was originally Minneha School District 134. The district was formed on February 17, 1883, and elected its first three-man school board in April of that year (Director H.C. Buck; Clerk Henry Oliver; Treasurer R.T. Leach). A frame building was constructed on the northeast corner of what is now the intersection of Webb Road and Central. Lillian Howard was hired as the one teacher for the fall term.

Minneha celebrated its 125 years as a school community during the 2008-2009 school year.

In February of 1918, the frame school house burned. The building was replaced by a brick structure with a basement large

## Excerpts from “A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings”

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enough for pupil programs and community social gatherings. The people of the district met each month for a social evening at the schoolhouse where oyster soup, chili or covered dish suppers were served. This building later became the Beech Aircraft print shop, and then a credit union. In May 1996, it was razed to widen the intersection at Webb and Central.

The red brick building served the community until 1949. On October 21 of that year, an open house was held in the newly constructed building at 701 North Webb Road. This building was the first phase of the present Minneha north building and was heralded as one of the most advanced rural school buildings in the state of Kansas. Facilities consisted of four fluorescent lighted classrooms and a kindergarten room, spacious auditorium and playroom, dining room, kitchen, library and offices. In 1950, the City of Eastborough consolidated its school district with the Minneha District, and in 1951, the north wing with four additional classrooms was completed.

Minneha School operated as a rural elementary school for children in kindergarten through eighth grade until the fall of 1952 when the second addition was completed. It was then reorganized as a grade school serving children from kindergarten through sixth grade and as a junior high school for children in grades seven, eight and nine. As the district increased in population, a new building program was begun and the Minneha south building was completed in 1955. A band room was constructed on the west end of the north building in 1960.

In July 1965, Minneha District 134 was unified with Wichita District No. 1 and other rural districts adjacent to Wichita to form Unified School District No. 259. Minneha continued to operate as organized until the fall of 1966, when all pupils in grades seven, eight and nine were assigned to the new Coleman Junior High School. The two Minneha buildings were reorganized for children enrolled from kindergarten through the sixth grade. At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of around 425.

On July 13, 1998, the Board of Education approved a name change for Minneha. Minneha Elementary was changed to Minneha Core Knowledge Magnet.

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Minneha received a new addition including eight classrooms and student support area during the Bond project. Robl Construction, Inc. completed the project in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by Howard and Helmer Architects, P.A.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held April 30, 2003.

## **Mueller Aerospace and Engineering Discovery Magnet**

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The Mueller School District was established in 1952 to serve the educational needs of a new housing area in northeast Wichita. Hollobaugh-Bowers were the architects for the 15-room school. The adult population in the area consisted mostly of young married couples who had come from small towns in Kansas and neighboring states to work in the aircraft factories. The school population rose from 298 in 1952 to over 800 in 1958.

In 1962, the Wichita Board of Education announced that 140 black children from Isely Elementary School would be transferred to Mueller. A decision was made in 1963 to add a 19-classroom addition to the existing school plant. Skinner

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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Elementary School was closed in 1964-65 because of the construction of Highway I-135, and a change was made in the Mueller boundary lines to include a major portion of the Skinner District plus a sizable area south of 21<sup>st</sup> Street formerly in the Isely district.

As a result of these actions, the white population began an immediate exodus from the community. The number of vacant and abandoned houses in the area rose to over 200. After 1963, there was a tremendous turnover in school population. The large number of black pupils enrolled rose rapidly; the number of white pupils enrolled decreased at the same rate. By 1965, Mueller had become a predominantly black school.

To overcome crowded conditions at Mueller and to help integrate other elementary schools in Wichita in 1968, approximately 425 students were bused to 11 other elementary schools. In 1971, the Mueller district was included in the Assigned Attendance Area of the integration plan adopted by the Board of Education. Since that date, the ratio of 26 to 30 percent black pupils has been consistently maintained.

Mueller School was named for Charles P. Mueller, a Wichita pioneer and former president of the Board of Education. He was born in Williamsville, New York, June 13, 1862, and came to Kansas with his parents in 1867. His father had taken a soldier's claim near Lawrence; however, the family moved back to New York in 1874 because of the grasshoppers. Charles began work in a greenhouse in Buffalo, New York in 1875 and in 1882, he returned to Lawrence where he worked as a florist. He came to Wichita in 1883, again working as a florist, and in 1885, he started his own greenhouse. At the time of his death on November 24, 1932, his company was one of the largest floral establishments in Kansas.

Mr. Mueller was very active in civic organizations, a charter member of St. Paul's Methodist Church, one of the founders of the Wichita YMCA, and a member of the Rotary Club of Wichita. He was an organizing member of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce and served on its Board of Directors. Mr. Mueller was a member of the Wichita Board of Education from 1914 to 1926, serving as president when Wichita High School East was built.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of around 475 with 30 percent black students.

In April 2000, the voters of the Wichita School District approved a \$284.5 million bond issue. The projects began in the fall of 2000 and were completed over the next five years. The plan built 19 multipurpose rooms, upgraded science labs, replaced portable classrooms with permanent construction, improved handicap accessibility to all buildings, rebuilt five existing elementary schools, added a new elementary and middle school, expanded seven other elementary schools and provided nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

With the help of PBA Architects, P.A. and Sauerwein Construction Co., Mueller received an upgraded infrastructure and the library was expanded and renovated.

The Bond celebration was held at the completion of the project on February 10, 2004.

## OK

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In January 1876, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Scully sold an acre of land to a township known today as Delano for \$15. On this acre of ground OK School, County School District No. 5, was established. The first school house was a small white frame structure in which A.H. Maxwell taught a three-month term in 1877. On May 24, 1890, the first graduation exercises in the district were held for the three young women who received their diplomas.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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Where did OK get its name? No one knows exactly. One rumor is that it was named for a man whose first name could have been O.K. Another is that it could have been named for the township which may have been known as OK at that time.

In 1924, the first building was torn down, and two rooms with a basement were built to replace it. In 1930, widow Sarah A. Sprankle gave additional land to the school district, and four classrooms, an auditorium, kitchen and restrooms were added.

After World War II the northwest area began to build up quickly. A new auditorium, an office, two restrooms and four classrooms were added in 1948. In 1952, six classrooms and two restrooms in the west wing were built.

The school remained a county school until 1956 when it was attached to the Wichita school system. At that time the district was divided, with some students being sent to Bryant and some to Garrison while the remainder stayed at OK.

In 1964, extensive remodeling was completed which provided an outer office, principal's office, nurse's room and teachers' lounge. In 1967, the library was expanded and remodeled with the installation of a multimedia center which provided a wider range in teaching technology.

In November 1974, a \$30 million bond issue was approved by the citizens of Wichita. With funds from the sale of the bonds, OK School received six new classrooms, restrooms, a commons area and an extension to the library. Construction was completed in August 1976, and the new classrooms were in full use at the beginning of the 1976-77 school term.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of around 300.

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At the beginning of the 2002-03 school year, a new wing was added to OK Elementary. This new wing was part of the district bond project. Added to our building were 10 new classrooms, a computer lab, a new commons area, a full-size gym and a kitchen. All rooms throughout the building were air conditioned. The old gym and one wing with old classrooms were demolished in the summer of 2005, and a new front to the building was constructed.

The district used money from the Bond issue, FEMA and Capital Outlay to complete OK's bond construction. Howard and Helmer Architects, P.A. and Bauer & Son Construction, Inc. were involved in this project.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held September 17, 2002.

In the summer of 2009, permanent walls were constructed for the classrooms that were built in 1976. Bauer & Son Construction, Inc. completed the project.

## Park

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Park is one of the oldest schools in Wichita. It received the name Park because of its location, as Ninth Street was originally known as Park Street. The first record of land being bought by the Board of Education was on June 25, 1883. Two lots on Court Street, later known as Main Street, were deeded to the Board of Education. On July 5, 1883, one lot on Church Street,

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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now called Water Street, was also deeded to the Board. The abstract of this property shows it was part of the original Munger property. These three lots are obviously only a part of the original Park Elementary School site.

Board of Education minutes of April 1885 resolved that a building be erected on the grounds owned by the Board on North Main Street, and construction was completed that same year at a total cost of \$10,500. Strong Hinman, who later served the Wichita schools as director of health and physical education, described the building as a two-story brick structure with three rooms on each floor. It had steam heat but outdoor wooden toilets. About 1900, an addition of four rooms was added, two up and two down. Board of Education minutes of November 4, 1901 reported an addition to Park complete. Mr. Hinman said he had started first grade in 1900 and had completed the eighth grade in 1908, all in that building. He remembered Elizabeth Knight as principal.

Mrs. Paul Peters, whose maiden name was Zella Roberts, attended Park School from 1919 to 1926. She described the old building in much the same manner as Mr. Hinman. She had pleasant memories of the large bell on top of the building and the tower in which it was mounted. She also remembered a wooden building used for coal storage on the north side of the grounds. This building had the appearance of a school building. This verifies a story told earlier by an older lady who visited the school one day. She was looking around with nostalgic memories of her school days in Park and of the community and the changes that had occurred since that time. She stated the old wooden building had preceded the brick building erected in 1885 and faced Main Street.

Thus, the present building, which was erected in 1921, is probably the third school on the site. At the time of its construction, this building had 14 classrooms and an auditorium. In 1955, the back of the auditorium was partitioned into a classroom, and in 1961, the rest of the auditorium was made into a classroom and library.

In the 1963-64 school year, Park School enrollment averaged about 470 pupils. This crowded the capacity of the building and was due to the fact that Emerson School had been closed at the end of the previous term and most of the children in that area had been assigned to Park. Twelve years later, due to changes in housing patterns, the enrollment averaged about 200. Much of the area has changed from one of the elite sections of Wichita back in the early history of the city to commercial property and low-cost apartments. The housing pattern also contributes largely to the high percentage of pupil mobility in the school.

In 1989-90, Park became part of the Horace Mann Foreign Language Elementary Magnet School complex, housing grades K-2 and administered by the principal at Horace Mann and the site administrator, an assistant principal. The site administrator was designated principal in 1995.

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The district authorized an agreement with architects Jeff Krehbiel & Associates for Park's Bond issue improvements. Caro Construction Co. was contracted to complete the addition and renovation. With this, Park received an addition including a multipurpose room, kitchen, library and seven classrooms. Renovations were also made to other classrooms and the student support area.

In January 2001, FEMA announced a grant providing \$444,762 to help construct safe rooms at Park and various schools throughout the district.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held September 19, 2002.

## Payne

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On January 25, 1954, Payne School on the corner of Wheeler (now Harry Street) and Edwards was opened for use. The school was named for David L. Payne, twice a member of the Kansas Legislature and one of the well-known figures in the opening of the Oklahoma Territory.

Payne opened with an enrollment of 413 pupils from the neighboring Stanley and Meridian Schools, with Oscar Carr as the principal of both Payne and Meridian. In the fall of 1954, there were 425 students enrolled, and Edward Crumrine was appointed principal. On Sunday, October 3, 1954, the Payne staff and Payne PTA, with Mrs. William Rosiere as president, hosted an open house for the public.

The peak enrollment between the years 1954 to 1969 was 664 students in 1958, and from 1957 through 1964 the enrollment remained above 600. Twelve portables were added during the years 1955 to 1959, of which nine were removed upon completion of a major addition to the building in 1961. The new addition added seven classrooms, a multipurpose room, library, special activities room, office area and kitchen.

Payne was a Title I school from the start of the federal program under P.L. 89-10 through the 1994-95 school term. With the creation of middle schools in 1988, the sixth grade program was moved from the building, easing overcrowding conditions. The school enrollment declined from its peak enrollment in the early 1960s but remains around 400. The school began a Chapter 1 schoolwide program during the 1994-95 school year which included a longer school day and school year as well as the extensive use of technology integrated within the curriculum.

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Brecko Construction Co. was contracted to complete the projects at Dodge and Payne, in which Payne received a new addition including four classrooms and a new student support area. Payne's library was also expanded, and certain hallways had unsafe glass removed.

The Bond project celebration was held April 11, 2006.

## Peterson

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It all started in the year 1875 when Daniel Peterson donated some of his farmland for a school. It is believed the very first school was a shed-type building which was probably used until 1898 when a new building was erected and named in honor of Daniel Peterson. This white frame structure was used until 1931 when the school moved into what today is affectionately called "Little Red." This red brick, one-room school with a basement is still in use. The present building was erected in 1952. Additions were made in 1955, 1958, 1959, 1976 and 1987. The last addition included 11 classrooms, a P.E. office, an enlargement of the gym and a new office.

Peterson School was originally District 69 and was known as the Prairie Rose School. The name was changed to Peterson at a later date. Mary (Mollie) Benton, who was the first teacher, began teaching December 13, 1875, and taught three months for



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\$75. During the early years the school term was three or four months, and the going salary for teachers was \$25 per month. At the annual meeting on August 9, 1883, the decision was made to have seven months of school: a four-month term to begin the first Monday in October and a three-month term to begin the first Monday in March.

By 1952, the community was growing by leaps and bounds. It was not unusual for a class to begin the school year with 45 students and then double in size by the time the second semester rolled around. Sometimes classes attended school in shifts. To handle the growing population, three more schools were constructed: Benton, Kensler and McCollom. Mr. W.B. Lewis was superintendent of the four schools which then made up District 69.

In 1960, the patrons of the school district voted to be annexed to Wichita School District No. 1 which later became Unified School District No. 259. At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth-grade students were incorporated into the middle school program. Enrollment peaked at 660 in 1992-93 and has declined since to an average of 550 students.

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The district authorized Spangenberg Phillips Architecture and Rainbow Construction Co., Inc. to complete the Peterson Bond project. With this, the school received a new addition including a library and five classrooms. Renovations were also made to the library and student support area, and the kitchen was expanded.

### **Pleasant Valley Elementary**

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The Pleasant Valley School District 128 operated as a separate district from the year 1881 to June 30, 1964 when it became a part of the Wichita Public School System. Records indicate the first term of school was for three months in the spring of 1881. Ida Jones was the teacher at a salary of \$12 per month. The 1881-82 school year was for a three-month term and was taught by Mattie Keefer. For her services she was paid \$29 per month. The 1882-83 term was also taught by Mattie Keefer, but it was an eight-month school year for which she was paid \$33.33 per month. During the years 1883-90, the terms varied in length from six to nine months. Beginning with the 1901-02 term, the standard eight-month school year was held until 1926 when the nine-month term was adopted.

It appears that school building was located on the site of the present Michener site (formerly North Pleasant Valley and currently a police academy) on 37th Street. A part of the original site was given to the school by the Pierpont estate to remain property of the school district as long as it was used for school purposes. Prior to 1922, the records referred to the building as a white frame structure. In 1922, the district voted \$12,000 in bonds to construct the red brick building that formerly occupied the present site of the building on 37th Street.

From 1904 to 1927, the school remained a one-teacher school with the enrollment averaging 26-40 pupils. In 1927, the enrollment exceeded 40 pupils, and a second teacher was added. In 1942, when the enrollment was more than 70 pupils, a third teacher was added. From 1942-47, the enrollment increased from 70 to 95 pupils, and in 1947 a fourth teacher was added.

In June of 1948, a foresighted school board and an alert group of patrons voted \$120,000 in bonds for the first phase of the present Pleasant Valley Elementary School building (then called South Pleasant Valley) on 29th Street. The structure consisted of four classrooms, the office, space for the lunch program, and an auditorium. Construction was no more than

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completed when the need demanded another bond issue in 1950 of \$115,000 to construct the first addition of classrooms. A \$90,000 bond issue followed in 1951 to provide two rooms per grade level and to complete the present size of the building.

With the development of the school on 29th Street, the old red brick schoolhouse on 37th Street was closed in 1950. The patrons in March 1958 again went to the polls and voted \$365,000 in bonds to build North Pleasant Valley Elementary on 37th Street. In 1973, when North Pleasant Valley was renamed to honor John and Anna Michener, the "South" was dropped from the name and the south building became Pleasant Valley Elementary School.

Kindergarten was added to the school program during the 1951 school term with an enrollment of 52 pupils. The lunch program started out as a "Soup Program" during the 1941 school term and was initiated as a "Type A" lunch program during the 1942 term. In the late 1970s, the kitchen at Pleasant Valley ceased to provide lunch for the students. Students eating hot lunch walked to Pleasant Valley Junior High. In the fall of 1990, hot lunches were reinstated and the lunch program provided by the Food Service Center.

In 1976-77, a new media center and a mechanical room were added. The boiler room was enlarged, and eleven classrooms and four restrooms were remodeled. Extensive renovation was a part of the 1974 bond issue. This included remodeling all restrooms and new lighting and ceiling in the halls and classrooms. Some of the remodeling was necessary to bring the building up to the present fire and safety code standards.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of around 250.

In 1995, Pleasant Valley shared a principal with Riverview.

On March 10, 1997, a construction contract with Claassen Construction Co., Inc. was approved for the addition of four classrooms, additional restrooms, parking, additional air conditioning for the existing building, and ADA Improvements as required by code. On September 8, 1997, the Board approved the dedication of the recently completed wing to the memory of teacher, Diane Vaughn Meier. Board members, as well as the community, were invited to attend the dedication ceremony on September 16, 1997.

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With the recent bond construction, Pleasant Valley received two new classrooms and a new student support space. Walz Harman Huffman Construction, Inc., completed the Pleasant Valley Elementary and Middle School projects.

## Price-Harris Communications Magnet

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### Will G. Price Elementary School

Will G. Price Elementary School opened for classes in the fall of 1957 with an enrollment of 171 pupils, six full-time teachers and one half-time. The staff of 15 included the principal, special services, a secretary and a custodian. Of the 14 regular classrooms, seven were used full time, and the school had a library and an all-purpose room situated in the center of two wings of classrooms.

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The school was named in honor of the late Will G. Price. Mr. Price came to Wichita in 1879 with his parents. He attended Kellogg School and graduated from Wichita High School. He chose school teaching as a career and enrolled in the County Normal School to enable him to qualify for teaching. During the summer months he attended the Wichita Commercial College to learn shorthand, typing, penmanship and bookkeeping. He then taught at Wellington High School, Wellington, Kansas. He later joined two teachers at the Wichita Commercial College forming a partnership and started a new business college, the Wichita Business College. He operated the school until 1916. Mr. Price was never too busy to serve his community and devoted himself to numerous civic activities. He helped found the Wichita Boy Scouts and was instrumental in organizing the Wichita Planning Commission, serving as a member for its first 12 years.

As the Price community continued to grow, the enrollment also grew. By the year 1959-60, the enrollment had increased to 310 pupils with 11 teachers. In 1961-62, the annexation of Spring Acres by the city added to the Price School community, and the enrollment jumped to 381 with 14 teachers on the staff. The following years the enrollment showed a slight decline, and the staff varied from one to two teachers.

By the 1966-67 school year, a boundary change was made to relieve a neighboring school of crowded conditions. This transferred approximately 50 students to Price. Enrollment again jumped to 382, with a staff of 14 teachers. With more building of homes north of 13th Street, the enrollment reached a peak of 413 in 1967-68. A drop to 385 in 1968-69 began a gradual decline to between 250 to 300 pupils in the 1970s.

In 1969-70, the school library was enlarged by removing a wall between the library and room six, thus making possible all expansion of the audiovisual activities.

Enrollment further declined to the low 200s in the 1980s as the number of neighborhood school age children fell. In the late 1980s, a Latch Key program was begun at Price to accommodate the needs of working parents for before and after school care.

The 1989-90 school year brought the merger of Price with Harris Elementary to become a single school located on two campuses. The Price facility housed kindergarten through second grade while the Harris campus housed third through the fifth grade. The attendance area of Price-Harris was expanded in 1991 to include the Williamsburg development. Enrollment at the Price campus averaged about 175 students. The school population mirrored the demographic changes of the district as a whole.

Beginning the 1996-97 school year, Price-Harris converted to a communications magnet school.

### Kos Harris Elementary School

Kos Harris Elementary School was completed in 1956. The first year of operation Miss Nan Wade was the principal, and there were six teachers with an enrollment of 132. Two portables were added, one in 1965 and one in 1966.

The building was constructed by Caro Construction Company with C.A. Griffin and F.L. McAleavey as the architects. The cost was \$213,000. The building contains 21,639 square feet with 14 classrooms, a library, general purpose room, offices, kitchen and a teachers' lounge. The grounds include 10.7 acres.

The school was named after Mr. Kos Harris, one of Wichita's earliest citizens who was also one of the city's first lawyers. Mr. Harris's father was an early judge and set up a law practice in Wichita in 1874. Upon the death of his father, Kos Harris practiced law with his son, Vermillion Harris, until he retired in 1924 - 50 years to the day after he opened a law office in Wichita. "Fifty years is long enough for any lawyer to practice law," he commented, and never returned to his office. Mr. Harris was regarded as a profound student of the law and a versatile lawyer, trying both civil and criminal cases. He took active interest in civic affairs. He was a member of the Board of Trade (precursor of the Chamber of Commerce), served on the Board of Education from 1881 to 1885, helped initiate the building of Forum, wrote authoritative chronicles of the history of the plains, was a member of the Pioneer Society of Sedgwick County and was a life member of the Kansas Historical Society.

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The memorial resolution adopted by the Wichita bar in 1931 following his death on October 10, noted: "He was more than a lawyer; he was a friend, a philosopher, a scholar, a pioneer, an historian of the community in which he lived his life. To preserve that part in accurate detail, he devoted his time and his talent to a greater degree than any other citizen in Wichita."

Enrollment grew through the 1960s, reaching a peak of 492 in 1965-66. To alleviate the overcrowded conditions, a portion of Harris enrollment area was reassigned to neighboring Price Elementary in 1966-67. A gradual decline in enrollment followed, leveling to around 300 by the late '80s. Beginning the 1989-90 school year, Harris was merged with Price Elementary School to become Price-Harris, a single school located on two campuses. Harris housed grades 3-5 and Prices housed K-2 students with one principal for both schools.

The attendance area of Price-Harris was expanded in 1991 to include the Williamsburg development. Enrollment for Price-Harris rose to the low 400s by 1995. The school population mirrored the demographic changes of the district as a whole.

Beginning the 1996-97 school year, Price-Harris was converted to a communications magnet school.

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The Price Campus closed in the fall of 2004 and the students were moved to the Harris Campus after the addition and renovations were completed. The board approved the reopening of the Price building and moved the Alcott Academy Middle School program to the Price building. On June 26, 2006 the site was renamed Blackbear Bosin Academy.

When the students were combined at the end of the 2004-05 school year, the name was changed to Price-Harris Communications Magnet.

The bond project dedication ceremony was held on October 27, 2005.

## Riverside Leadership Magnet

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The history of Riverside Elementary School dates back to 1889 when a one-room frame building was erected at a cost of \$495. The school was located "between the rivers." In 1892, the Board voted to dispense with the school for a year. However, in 1893, school was resumed on a trial basis and Riverside has been in session every year to the present time.

The school was moved to the corner of 13th and Water in 1893. The building was repaired and remodeled and opened in December of that year. In 1908, a small frame building was erected in what is the present 900 block on Litchfield. Riverside School was held at that location until 1910. The school was opened to grades one through five with 32 students. A four-room brick building with basement and boiler room was constructed in 1910 at Porter and Harrison, the present location. The building cost \$14,000. Grades one through seven were taught, and a principal and two teachers were employed.

Enrollment began to increase during the late teens, and an additional five rooms and a library were added in 1920. Four classrooms, an office and a basement auditorium were built in 1927. The basement auditorium was called a community room. Enrollment soared to an all-time high during the following 15 years. There were 505 students in 1930. The school had a professional staff of 14 teachers, principal, custodian and a secretary.

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The number of schools began to increase in the '30s and '40s. Riverside's enrollment fluctuated between 400-500 during the depression and war years. Another peak enrollment came after the Korean War in 1953-54 with 480 students. The late '50s and '60s brought a decline in enrollment. Contributing factors to the decline were neighborhood school concept, urban renewal and an increase in the number of schools. The enrollment stabilized near 350 for a time but continued downward in the early '80s to below 200.

From 1987 through 1992, Riverside shared a principal with Woodland Elementary. In 1995, it shared a principal with Pleasant Valley Elementary.

The fear their school would be closed due to low enrollment spurred the parents to petition the Board of Education to become a cultural arts magnet school. This theme was chosen to take advantage of the close proximity of the museums on the river. In 1991, Riverside became a Cultural Arts and History Magnet School. Enrollment is maintained around 325.

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The Board of Education approved the purchase of property at 1027 N. Porter to have sufficient property to construct the new addition of Riverside. The architectural firm Wilson Darnell Mann was utilized, and Rainbow Construction Co., Inc. was contracted to complete the remodel and addition project. Riverside received a new addition including a multipurpose room and kitchen, as well as renovations for classrooms and student support. Exterior restoration work was also completed.

The Bond project dedication ceremony was held April 12, 2005.

## Seltzer

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The story of Seltzer School really begins with the fresh surge of western migration which swept the United States after the close of the Civil War.

After the most pressing needs of the early settlements had been met, a school was erected on the E.O. Smith farm which occupied the half section on the north side of the road between 127th and 143rd Streets East. The school itself, called the Brown School, stood about one-half mile east of 127th Street on the north side of Kellogg, also known as East U.S. Highway 54. Nothing remains at this site today, and there is little information concerning the structure. It is known that the men in the community built the school which served about 50 pupils who resided in the district which was bounded by Greenwich Road on the west from one-half mile south of Pawnee to one-half mile north of Kellogg and on the east by the Butler County line. This was an area of nine square miles. In 1876, the three half sections lying south of Pawnee were excluded, leaving the district wholly within Minneha Township.

No one seems to know why the school was called the Brown School; no one can recall a family by that name in the neighborhood. It is certain that it was designated as Common School District 31 of Sedgwick County, Kansas, and established in 1874.

The school was also used by the community as a place for public worship on Sunday. Its location in the very northern part of the district made it quite a distance for some of the patrons who used the community center, and in 1880, the school was relocated on the Thomas Means farm one-half mile north of Harry Street on 143rd Street East. This school was also called the

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Brown School.

In 1889, a new school was built to accommodate the increased enrollment. At this time the school was named Seltzer after the springs for which the community became known. Thad Smith was the carpenter, and materials and labor were supposed to have cost \$100. In 1923, Seltzer School was more centrally located in the district, the relocation being established at the present site, 903 South 127th Street East.

On February 30, 1951, a contract was executed between the C.E. Vollmer Construction Company and Sedgwick County School District 31 in the sum of \$29,415 for the construction of a new brick school to be located at 903 South 127th Street East. Brown Electrical Company had the wiring contract for \$1,125, and Kendall Plumbing and Heating was to install the pump and septic tank system for \$6,335. In October, a housewarming welcomed patrons to the new structure which consisted of two classrooms, restrooms and a multipurpose room. This would be the northernmost area in the present building. Enrollment was between 70 and 80 students.

In 1954, Seltzer School began another transition period. Many new housing developments had been created in the community, and there was a rapid gain of newcomers to the district. In 1956, three classrooms, a principal's office and teachers' lounge were added to the existing structure. This is the central section of the present building. Seltzer now had five teachers, a budget of \$39,110 and a public transportation system.

By 1959, Seltzer had become crowded to the point there was some discussion of possible consolidation with Andover. It was thought that Andover might take the seventh and eighth grades, making further construction of facilities unnecessary; however, no action was taken.

In 1960, Seltzer gained the former students of Franklin District 72, making a total enrollment of 185. On May 26, 1960, a bond election was held at the school and carried, 57-5, to provide funds for adding the south classrooms, the kitchen and the gymnasium plus additional restrooms. A contract for \$109,035 was executed with Hibbs and Pettit, architects, and Caro Construction Company to accomplish this work. With the completion of the addition, a full-time lunch program became a part of the school program.

For the next few years, Seltzer School District continued to gain steadily in enrollment, and the activities and services offered were expanded. A school secretary was employed to relieve the principal of routine clerical duties. A nurse and counselor began to visit Seltzer a few hours each week, and instructors for art and music were added to the faculty.

In 1964, the library annex to the present building was constructed. Feldner and Frey were the architects, and the W.B. Carter Construction Company was awarded the contract for \$24,889. The school now had a total of ten classrooms, a fine library space and a nice gymnasium for its comprehensive educational program. Seltzer enrolled its first kindergarten students during the 1964-65 school term.

In 1964, the Kansas Legislature passed the School Unification Act which provided for consolidation of many small school districts in the state. As a result, Seltzer Common School District 31 became a part of Unified School District 259, Wichita Public Schools, which had a K-6-3-3 organizational pattern for school attendance centers. Though Seltzer lost its seventh and eighth grade students through unification, it also gained additional students in the lower grades when its neighbor to the west, Mammoth Cave District 22, was closed. Seltzer became one of the largest in the area designated attendance centers in the city school system.

Enrollment neared 600 in 1983-84 and the ten portables which had been added in 1967 were in full use. The overcrowding was alleviated at the end of the 1984 school year as boundaries were redrawn with the opening of the new Beech Elementary School. At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program. Enrollment in 1994-95 was 300 and increasing yearly. Three portables remain at the site.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a K-5 enrollment of around 300.

In 1998, Wichita Public Schools administration entered into a Real Estate Purchase Agreement with Leewood Homes, Inc. for  
*Page 49 of 85*



the exchange of a portion of district-owned property for a new site to be used to build a new Seltzer Elementary.

Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey & Associates were hired to provide architectural and engineering services for the proposed new school. Coast to Coast Builders, Inc. was contracted to construct the new Seltzer Elementary School, which was to be approximately 60,883 square feet and is located at Lincoln and Greenwich Road.

An open house and dedication was held Thursday, September 28, 2000, at 10:30 a.m. Diane Miles, Seltzer Principal, Superintendent Winston Brooks, Board of Education President Marty Marshall and city officials cut the ribbon at the grand opening ceremony.

### **Spaght Multimedia Magnet**

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Ingalls Elementary School was named in honor of John J. Ingalls, a famous 19th century United States Senator from the State of Kansas. Senator Ingalls was an outstanding orator much sought after for appearances across the country.

On September 3, 1900, a new school building at Ninth and Cherry Street was named Ingalls. Cherry Street ran from Eighth to Ninth and was one block west of Cleveland. Cherry Street was probably Indiana Street of today. This places the original Ingalls on the Dunbar site. The new building was short lived as it burned one month and five days later. In March of the following year, the Board of Education awarded a contract in the amount of \$15,075 for the construction of a new eight-room structure at the same location. The new building was to have steam heat. Because it was impossible to get city water to the new school, it was necessary to install two pumps.

In March of 1927, contracts were let in the amount of \$156,050 for the construction of a new school at Tenth and Grove. Two months later the Board named the new school Ingalls.

Population in the area must have grown rapidly, because four rooms were added to the structure in 1930. In 1952, an additional six rooms were added on the east to accommodate two kindergartens and four primary classes. Soon after the completion of this wing, portable classrooms were moved on the site. In 1962, the 16 portables on the site were replaced by a permanent addition composed of 14 classrooms, a multipurpose room, and a library. At that time the enrollment was over 1,000.

The integration process started at Ingalls in 1953 and continued until about 1957 when the school population was more than 50 percent black. By 1969, only one white child attended Ingalls.

In 1971-72, Ingalls was included in the “Assigned Attendance Area” for integration purposes. The assignment of black children to schools outside the area and transportation of white children to the school resulted in an approximate ratio of 80 percent white and 20 percent black in the school population. The enrollment was maintained at about 550.

In the fall of 1992, the educational emphasis of Ingalls changed to a geographical approach. Each grade level was assigned a continent of study. To reflect the geographical approach, the school was renamed Ingalls World of Knowledge Magnet Elementary School.

In the summer of 1997, the Board of Education approved to close Ingalls World of Knowledge Magnet and have it reopened as an Edison school. The Board of Education approved the name change to Ingalls Edison Academy on September 8, 1998. The enrollment for the 1997-98 school year began with approximately 700 students. Students who attended Ingalls Edison Academy went through an application process. This school offered: an extended school day - so students had more time for learning and to provide time for learning the arts, foreign languages, and physical education; a longer school year - the students attended class 206 days a year; a computer in the home of every student - to promote regular communication among parents, teachers and students and to make advanced technology an integral part of the child's future.



In April 2000, the voters of the Wichita School District approved a \$284.5 million bond issue. The projects began in the fall of 2000 and were completed over the next five years. The plan built 19 multipurpose rooms, upgraded science labs, replaced portable classrooms with permanent construction, improved handicap accessibility to all buildings, rebuilt five existing elementary schools, added a new elementary and middle school, expanded seven other elementary schools and provided nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

At the end of the 2001-02 school year, Ingalls was no longer operated by Edison and was a part of the Wichita Public School System. In July 2002, the Board unanimously approved the change of the name to Samuel E. Spaght Accelerated Magnet Academy.

On September 5, 2002, a dedication was held to honor the man for whom the school is named. Samuel E. Spaght began his 41 years of service to the district as a teacher and was the first African-American to hold a high-level position in the Wichita Public Schools.

As part of the Bond construction, Spaght received a new addition including four classrooms and support area. The remodel and addition was completed by the Waldinger Corporation.

The Bond project celebration was held on April 13, 2006.

## Stanley

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Stanley Elementary was first called Orient School, and the records of its origins are sketchy and incomplete. Board minutes show that on July 24, 1911, the Board of Education voted to lease a site south of the Orient Shops and to erect a one-room building on the site. On August 28 of that same year, a committee reported purchase of eight lots in the Orient district. School directories show that for three years, from 1911 to 1914, a one-teacher school was conducted. In 1911-12, Ida M. Snyder taught grades one through seven; however, from 1912-14 classes were held for only grades one through four. For two years the address of the Orient was designated simply as Euclid Avenue. In 1913-14, the address shown was 2000 South Glenn.

The school was discontinued in 1914 and apparently the building on the site was moved, because the Annual Report of 1914-15 shows Board ownership of a site listed as Orient and valued at \$200 but with no building or equipment located on the site.

During the summer of 1927, Lots 73-95 on Martinson and Lots 74-96 on Elizabeth were acquired through condemnation proceedings. Two frame buildings were moved from Franklin to the new site, and Orient School again opened at Martinson and Esthner. This school had grades one through five and three teachers. In 1929-30, the name was changed to Edmund E. Stanley Elementary School, and a fourth teacher was added. Edmund E. Stanley became the first president of Friends University. He was a member of the Board of Education from 1905 to 1910.

A new building was constructed in 1930 at a cost of \$62,000. Schmidt, Boucher and Overend were architects for the building, and the contractor was the Blaser, Vollmer Construction Company. The new school was of concrete and brick construction and had six classrooms, a library and an office.

In 1950, to house the growing enrollment, an addition was constructed which increased the building to 12 classrooms. This construction cost \$56,000 and was done by the Soderberg Construction Company with W.I. Fisher as the architect. The area continued to grow, and portables were added to accommodate the enrollment. By 1972, twelve portable classrooms were located on the site.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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Major renovation and remodeling of Stanley was completed in 1981 as the final project of a bond election. The Aley-Stanley Community Center was the result of that project which added facilities for the Wichita Sedgwick County Health Department, Human Services Department, Department of Parks and Recreation, and a Wichita Public Library site. The school facility underwent extensive remodeling which nearly tripled the classroom space, expanded the library facilities, added a planetarium, and added amenities such as carpeting and air conditioning for the entire facility.

In addition to the City-County agencies, this 53,000 plus square foot facility maintains an enrollment of 450 PK - 5 students, and is one of only two schools in the district to be a school/community center.

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The district hired Caro Construction Co., Inc. to complete the addition and renovation project. Stanley received a new addition including two classrooms and upgrades to the 2nd floor restrooms.

The project completion celebration was held on March 9, 2006.

### **Washington Accelerated Magnet**

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The original Washington Elementary School was located in the area of Third Street and Cleveland. The eight room brick school was a part of a \$100,000 bond passed to build seven schools for the fast growing city of Wichita. It opened in 1890 and was called the Third Ward School, but was also known as East Third Street Public School. On April 7, 1890, it was named Washington School after the first president in response to a petition to the Board of Education. Other schools built at the same time were McCormick, Riverside, Kellogg, College Hill and Harry Street. Only McCormick's original structure stands today.

Due to a growing need for expansion, on October 7, 1918, an architect was employed to prepare building plans for a new 16-18 room building on the present site at Hydraulic and Third. "Buffalo Bill" Matthewson, a shrewd cattleman and businessman, owned the property. He was reluctant to sell. Upon his death in 1915, the land was divided up and the school district purchased the pasture at Central and Hydraulic. Plans and specifications were approved May 12, 1918 in the total amount of \$174,108. A new Washington Grade School was built. The school was completed and ready for occupancy the fall of 1921. The old site was demolished and its original cornerstones were used in constructing Roosevelt Intermediate School.

At the time the present structure was built, the school served a well-established middle-income area. With Central Avenue serving as a main traffic artery for the core business area of the city, the school was readily accessible as an attendance center.

Due to its location in an area easily accessible to the services of city transportation lines, Washington early became a center for special education classes. The "Sunshine Room" served the physically handicapped children, and because of this program a cafeteria was installed. However, in 1959-60, the Sunshine Room was discontinued. Washington School also became an early center for the educable mentally handicapped program in the Wichita Public Schools and continued until 1990 when the program was moved to another site to make room for students of gifted education and bilingual education. In 1994, an interrelated special education program was added for 28 students with special needs in learning disability, behavioral

disorders and EMR.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a PK-5 enrollment of around 375.

Socio-economic changes saw the school gradually go from an all white to 49 percent black population in 1970-71. With the institution of the integration program in 1971-72, the black enrollment was reduced and stabilized at approximately 30 percent.

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The district entered into an agreement with the architectural firm of Schaefer, Johnson, Cox, Frey for a four-section elementary school prototype to be built at Washington and Horace Mann. Key Construction completed these projects.

The district purchased property at 352 and 356 N. Pennsylvania and also 355 N. Hydraulic to construct parking lots and to replace property lost to building construction.

The old Washington school was demolished in August 2003. The bond celebration for the new school was held August 21, 2003.

## White

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William Allen White Elementary School was previously named South Riverside Junior High School and later was South Riverside Intermediate School. Before South Riverside Junior High School was built, the area was a part of School District 136. This was an elementary attendance area, grades one through eight, with no designated high school attendance area school. Some of the secondary students attended Wichita Public Schools, while others attended Clearwater and Derby Public Schools.

In 1954, the Mona Kay housing area was opened, and approximately 150 houses were built in the next two years. This created an overcrowded situation, and in 1957, South Riverside School District 136 voted to build a junior high school to help relieve the congested classrooms. The South Riverside Junior High School was completed in 1958. This building relieved the overcrowding for the next three years in the elementary and junior high grades.

During this three-year period, South Riverside, Haysville, Enterprise and Oatville Elementary School Districts voted a bond issue for the construction of Campus High School. Campus was opened in 1960 for grades nine through twelve. This caused the South Riverside School District to lose the ninth grade students. At that time, the name of the building was changed to South Riverside Intermediate School and included grades five through eight.

For the next four years South Riverside Intermediate School was a feeder school for Campus High School. Due to annexation of almost all of the school district by the Wichita City Commission, the South Riverside Elementary School District became part of the Wichita Public School System in 1964. The South Riverside Intermediate School was not large enough to qualify as a Wichita junior high school. Because of its location and size, the South Riverside Intermediate School District was divided, and the southern portion of the area was named the William Allen White Elementary School.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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The name of the school was chosen to honor the nationally known journalist and writer who was, for many years, the editor of *The Emporia Gazette* at Emporia, Kansas.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program. Due to overcrowding and large class sizes at White and nearby Funston Elementary, the school attendance configuration was again changed for the 1993-94 school year. White became an attendance center servicing children in grades PK through 1, with students in 2-5 attending Funston. In 1994, alterations were made to the library, speech room and seven classrooms.

Beginning with the 1995-96 school year, White and Booth Early Childhood Center shared the same principal.

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The district utilized the services of architectural firm Wilson & Company, as well as Caro Construction Co., Inc. to complete the project. White received an addition of four classrooms as well as remodeling to the existing structure.

Upon completion of the Bond construction, the dedication ceremony was held on November 10, 2005.

### **Woodland Health and Wellness Magnet**

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Woodland Elementary School first opened in 1889 with 20 pupils enrolled in grades one through four. The one-room frame building was located on a 140' x 200' lot at the corner of 16th Street and Salina. In 1893, the one-room building was moved to the Fairmount grounds, and Woodland pupils attended Irving School at 16th Street and Market.

In September 1907, a one-room building was moved to the original grounds and the Board of Education voted to name the school between the rivers Woodland. A second room was added in 1908 and a third room in 1910.

In 1915, Woodland patrons petitioned for a new four-room brick building, but it was not until 1919 that the three-room wooden structure was replaced with a four-room brick structure. In June 1921, an addition of two rooms was made. In 1928, the Board of Education voted to modernize Woodland School by connecting to the sewer and adding water services and toilet facilities.

The influx of people into Wichita at the beginning of World War II made it necessary to build a six-room addition to the school with 75 percent of the cost being borne by the Federal Works Agency. Upon completion in April 1943, the addition was immediately occupied.

In 1948, a health room was added upstairs, and in 1949, two classrooms were added. Enrollment continued to increase, and five classrooms were added to the north side in 1950.

By 1952-53, there was a need for more space. Enrollment had reached 664 pupils. Fifth and sixth grade classes were held at John Marshall Intermediate School until November of 1954 when four portable classrooms were moved to Woodland. Fire escapes were also added to the building as an added safety measure.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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In 1964, enrollment had decreased to 460 pupils. At that time, two portables were moved from the grounds and two classes for the educable mentally handicapped were added to the program.

During the summer of 1967, two classrooms were converted into a library to provide adequate library facilities. In 1967, the upper EMH class was moved to Cloud School, and in 1969, the lower EMH class was moved. In 1976, the building was extensively renovated using funds from the bond election of 1974.

From 1987 to 1991, Woodland shared a principal with Riverside Elementary. At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program and enrollment averaged 220.

Beginning in the fall of 1992, Woodland became a health and wellness magnet school and enrollment has stabilized around 300.

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With the help of architectural firm Schaefer, Johnson, Cox, Frey and construction company Wiens & Company, Woodland received a new addition, including a multipurpose room, kitchen and two classrooms. The 2nd floor restrooms were also renovated.

The Bond project celebration was held August 18, 2005.

## Woodman

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The 1950s saw a rapid population growth in a southwest section of Wichita called Glenn Village. The children of Glenn Village gave rise to the demand for a school, and hence, Rea Woodman Elementary School became a part of the Wichita Public Schools.

The school was named in honor and in memory of a pioneer citizen of Wichita who spoke of herself as a person with an "abounding spirit of adventure." Rea Woodman was an educator, lecturer, historian and a writer of books, poems, plays and essays. Her colorful spirit continues to be manifested in the school that bears her name.

Rea Woodman School, at 2414 South Glenn, was opened in January of 1956 with a total enrollment of 283 pupils. It consisted of two office areas, a combination kitchen and workroom, a library, a multipurpose room and 14 classrooms.

The school that appeared to be an adequate educational plant in 1956 rapidly became too small to meet the needs of its growing population, and by 1961, 30 portable classrooms had been added. The enrollment had grown from 283 in 1956 to 1,201 in 1961.

In 1957, and for three years following, Rea Woodman School participated in an educational experiment whereby pupils in grades three through six were taught in large groups of 100 or more for part of the time and in small groups for the remainder of the school day.

Because of the rapidly increasing enrollment at both Woodman and the adjoining Truesdell Junior High School, a decision was

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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made in 1960 to construct a new Woodman School at 2500 South Hiram and to connect the original Woodman with Truesdell to make an enlarged junior high school. September 1962 witnessed the opening of the largest elementary school in Kansas. This beautiful brick structure, designed by Architect John Hickman, resembled the form of a "helping hand." Mr. Hickman stated, "...the building resembles the hand; fingers outspread with the palm as the center. Classrooms run the length of the fingers, each for children of close age, ability and grade. All fingers join at the palm, which contains the more specialized spaces appropriate to elementary education."

The building had 44 regular classrooms, a multipurpose room, two libraries and several special rooms. Enrollment reached a maximum of 1,426 pupils in 1965. However, since that year, the enrollment has gradually decreased. During the late 70s, an energy center was housed at Woodman and later moved to the Earhart site.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a PK-5 enrollment of around 775.

During the 1991-92 year, Woodman housed the Woodman Open Magnet school in one of the wings. The following year it moved to the old Knight School site and became the Chester I. Lewis Open Magnet Elementary School.

On September 12, 1994, the Board of Education accepted a proposal from the City of Wichita to trade a 20 by 173 foot parcel of property from the northeast corner of the Woodman site to the City for expansion of the fire station. In exchange, the district received a 4,400 square foot concrete basketball/playground pad near the Woodman building.

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Woodman received a new addition including a multipurpose room, classrooms and a kitchen. Renovations were also made to the library and special education area. The district contracted architectural firm McCluggage Van Sickle & Perry to design the project. Walz Harmon Huffman Construction Inc. completed the addition and remodel.

The project dedication ceremony was held on February 8, 2005.

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

### Allison Traditional Magnet

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The present site of Allison Middle School at 221 South Seneca Street was selected by Board action on June 2, 1919. Purchase price of the block of ground which included three small houses was \$26,500.

The new school was to have been named Mark Twain Intermediate School. However, people of the West Side petitioned the Board to change the name to James A. Allison, and that name was finally approved for the new school.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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James A. Allison was active in community affairs from the time of his arrival in Wichita in 1886 until his death in 1916. His home was located on the corner of Martinson and University near the site of the school which was named in his honor. Mr. Allison was an educator and a civic and religious leader. He was instrumental in the founding of Friends University through the sale of the former Garfield University to James A. Davis who gave the property to the Society of Friends. Mr. Allison served on the Board of Education from 1891 to 1893 and was a member of the Board of Trustees of Southwestern University from 1894 to 1913.

Classes were first held in Allison Intermediate School in January 1921 with Mr. S.D. Hendryx as the principal.

The first building has had three additions to the original structure. The first addition consisted of three classrooms on the north side in 1928. Four classrooms and a cafeteria were added in 1930. In 1950, a gymnasium, band room and two art classrooms were added. Renovation of offices, corridors and cafeteria was completed in 1976.

The block of ground west of the present site was first used in 1927 as an athletic field. Dodge Street was closed a few years later.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8).

At the April 8, 1996 meeting, the Board of Education approved to dissolve the Allison attendance area at the end of the 1995-96 school year, with students sent to Hadley and Hamilton, and to create a traditional middle school magnet beginning with the 1996-97 school year.

### **Blackbear Bosin Academy**

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The Wichita Public Schools officially dedicated Blackbear Bosin Academy during a special ceremony on December 14, 2006. The Board of Education voted to rename Alcott Academy to Blackbear Bosin Academy in June of the same year. The name was chosen to honor the local Native American artist whose sculpture, "Keeper of the Plains," stands at the confluence of the Arkansas and Little Arkansas Rivers and is a symbol of the city.

"It is wonderful that Wichita still honors my father and the work he has done," said Blackbear Bosin's son, Niles, during the ceremony. Bosin told the students about the importance of getting an education, and telling them, "Success is not just what you accomplish; success is how you live life and how you feel about yourself."

Before the dedication, a "cedaring" took place outside the school. This is a traditional Native American ceremony which cleanses and blesses the building. Cy Ahtone, who performed the ceremony, explained the significance of the ceremony to guests and talked about the good wishes that would be brought upon the school.

As part of the dedication, Native American drummers and dancers performed. Student Marina Witt read an essay she had written about the life and legacy of Blackbear Bosin. Sarah Skelton and Shirley Jefferson, Board of Education members, and Truman Ware and Susan Seal, both friends of Bosin, spoke to guests as part of the dedication. Superintendent Winston Brooks, Niles Bosin, Martin and Witt unveiled the portrait of Blackbear Bosin that will hang in the school.

In April of 2006, the Board approved a plan to move the Alcott Academy program to the vacant Price Elementary site, located at 6123 E. 11th St.

Alcott Academy didn't receive any upgrades with the bond issue and the facility didn't meet the needs of students and staff. Price-Harris Communications Magnet moved into the Harris campus as a result of the school's bond issue project, leaving the Price site vacant.



With Alcott moving to the Price site, a committee was formed to consider a new name for the school. Board of Education President Sarah Skelton headed the committee and said the decision to name the school after Bosin was unanimous.

## Brooks Technology and Fine Arts Magnet

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Brooks Junior High School began its first year of operation in 1958. The official enrollment for the first year was 489 students. Formal dedication of the building was held on Sunday, November 2, 1958. The building was named for L.W. Brooks, who was a principal of three high schools in Wichita. He was the first director of secondary education and also was an acting superintendent of schools. In 1944, he was elected the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Preliminary studies were made to determine educational requirements of the area to be served. Planning was carried out with particular attention given to site development. Glenn E. Benedick was the architect and Martin K. Eby Company was general contractor. The design of Brooks School was unique in that the natural topography was retained and used as an asset rather than a liability in the development.

Definite separation was maintained for pedestrian traffic, automobile traffic, service areas and playground areas. Outside student gathering areas were developed with the most desirable orientation from the standpoint of access, weather protection and flow into the building facilities. Parking for 160 cars was provided adjacent to the facilities used by the public, and adjacent to the center of the building. Color was used to the fullest advantage inside the building to provide a cheerful and inspiring atmosphere for the students and teachers. The architect gave a great deal of attention to creating a feeling and atmosphere in the building conducive to alertness and learning.

Building capacity was originally established at 725 students. Enrollment increased steadily each year, and two portables were added in 1964. An additional four portables were required to meet enrollment needs for 1965. Enrollment in 1966 reached more than 1,000, and four more portables were needed. In subsequent years, the enrollment leveled off at approximately 950.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8).

Sixth graders were admitted into the newly established magnet program for the 1991-92 school year. The themes were global education, science and technology, and foreign language. Each year thereafter, the students in the magnet program moved to the next grade and a new sixth grade class was established until the entire student body was made up of students whose parents had made application for them to attend Brooks. Students were randomly selected for admission. Originally, there were to be 750 students in the magnet program. Enrollment was increased and in 1994-95, 842 students were attending Brooks.

## Coleman

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The site on which Coleman Middle School is located contains 97 acres. McVay, Peddie, Schmidt and Allen were architects for the building which was completed in July 1966 at a cost of \$1,829,000.

In the general plan of the structure there are four circular buildings connected by a commons area. Each building is 168 feet in diameter. One building houses two gymnasiums, and another has the auditorium in the center with nine classrooms around this circular area. There are classrooms located on three floors of the remaining two buildings.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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Twenty of the 29 first floor classrooms have windows. There are no windows in the second and third floor rooms. All rooms have controlled thermal environment. The building contains 132,255 square feet.

W.C. Coleman, for whom the school was named, was an educator and industrialist. He built a successful life on a love of knowledge, discipline of hard work and principles of a strong faith in God.

Reared on a Kansas homestead farm, W.C.'s "learning" began in a country school. His education was fraught with hardships: less than good eyesight, necessary interruptions to work on the family farm after his father's death, and the need to earn money in order to go to college. Despite these difficulties, he completed teacher's college, one year of university graduate study, and two and one-half years of law school before the turn of the century. W.C.'s first ambition was to be a teacher. His career as an educator encompassed two years as a country school master, one year as a university teacher, and two as a school principal.

Mr. Coleman's respect for his associates in the Coleman Company and for the citizens of Wichita brought out the best traits of everyone who worked with him. He was dedicated to all worthwhile public enterprises in the Wichita community.

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## Curtis

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Curtis Junior High School was named for Charles Curtis, a Kansan who became vice president of the United States. Charles Curtis was born January 25, 1860, in Topeka, Kansas. His father was a French settler and his mother a Kaw Indian princess. His mother died when Charles was only three years old, and after his sixth birthday he was taken to live with his grandmother on the Kansas Indian Reservation. When he was eight, his grandmother encouraged him to return to Topeka. At 16, he began to study law and passed his Kansas Bar Examination at the age of 21. He was elected prosecuting attorney and later county attorney of Shawnee County. He was elected to the House of Representatives, filled an unexpired term in the Senate, and was then elected senator. He served in the Senate almost 30 years. He served as vice president of the United States under Herbert Hoover. He died in 1936 at the age of 76.

The Industrial Construction Company started construction of Curtis School in 1951, and the building was completed in 1953. Hibbs and Robinson were the architects for the structure.

The school opened in September 1953 with 19 classrooms, an office, library, auditorium, gymnasium and cafeteria for capacity of 600 students. The staff consisted of a principal and 25 teachers.

In 1954, two shop rooms were added, and an assistant principal was added to the staff. In 1955, 12 additional classrooms were constructed, and enrollment the following fall was 979 with a staff of a principal, an assistant principal and 38 teachers. In 1961, 23 classrooms, a second office, gymnasium and dining room were added. The old library was converted into classrooms and a new library added.

The enrollment in the fall of 1961 was 1,221 with a staff of 55 teachers. At that time Spanish, Latin, world history and biology were added to the curriculum. The peak enrollment of 1,440 was reached in 1969. The enrollment declined to 810 in 1994.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8).

In April 2000, the voters of the Wichita School District approved a \$284.5 million bond issue. The projects were slated to be

completed over the next five years, with projects beginning in the fall of 2000.

Curtis received an upgrade/replaced infrastructure and a new addition including an expanded library, four science labs, renovation for science and library and construction connecting walkway for an estimated cost of \$5,621,000.

On February 4, 2004, the district entered into a contract with Snodgrass & Sons Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$5,046,000 to complete the remodel and addition. The project was completed and the dedication ceremony was held November 17, 2005.

## Hadley

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The W.S. Hadley Middle School was named for a man who lived on the West Side for many years. William Spencer Hadley was born in Richland, Iowa, on January 18, 1866. He moved to Beloit in 1876 and attended public schools in Beloit. After finishing his education, he became a school teacher for several years.

In 1901, Mr. Hadley moved to Wichita and was in the banking business in Wichita most of his life. For many years he was president of a bank on the west side and was active in the West Wichita Commercial League. He served as a member of the Board of City Commissioners and was, at one time, president of the Board of Trustees of Friends University. He maintained a very active interest in Friends University, in the University Friends Church, and in the national affairs of Friends churches.

Hadley School was planned several years ahead of its actual use. The site was purchased from Ernest Clark and Mrs. Florence Davis. It was farm territory at the time, and the farm had been in the Clark family for many years. This site and the site for Bryant Elementary School were bought in cooperation with the Park Department, which owns the area immediately west of the two schools. The Park Department made a large area available to the community for school and park activities.

Leeper and Gilbert, architects, were commissioned to draw the plans and specifications for the building, and the contract was let in January of 1957. The building and site cost approximately \$1,400,000. The building has about 103,000 square feet to serve approximately 1,000 pupils.

Hadley Junior High opened in the fall of 1958 with an enrollment of 432. To justify the opening of the school, the boundary line was set two blocks south of Central Avenue. In the fall of 1960, the city annexed Country Acres and Westlink, and by the fall of 1961, the enrollment was 830. The enrollment steadily increased to a peak of 1,423 in 1969. The increased enrollment required the use of portable classrooms, and 16 were placed on the site during the period of expanding pupil population.

The purchase of Madonna High School, to serve as a junior high on the west side, brought about a revision of boundaries in 1971. This helped to eliminate the need for portables, and they were removed as the pupil population stabilized. Internal revisions have included converting an industrial technology room to two classrooms. School population again increased and by 1995, it approached 1,000 students, necessitating the use of nine portables.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8). In the past, approximately 400 sixth graders came from Wilbur Middle School each year, for one year only, to relieve their crowded school.

## Hamilton

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Alexander Hamilton School was built during 1918-1919 and was completed in time for the fall opening of school in September 1919. Named for the first United States secretary of the treasury, Alexander Hamilton Intermediate School was dedicated on January 16, 1920. Governor Henry J. Allen, a resident of Wichita, made the dedicatory address. Architect for the new building was Lorenz Schmidt and the builders were L.W. Brown and Company. Much later in its history the name of the school was changed to Alexander Hamilton Junior High School and in 1989 to Alexander Hamilton Middle School in line with a policy change of the Wichita Board of Education.

Many physical changes have been made in the building and grounds. In the beginning, the north half of the city block bounded by Zimmerly, Boston, Market and Broadway was purchased for the school. As property became available, more ground was acquired until the present campus includes 3.65 acres, and the entire city block between the four streets is school property with one small exception.

Three additions have been added to the original building, one in 1928, one in 1951 and as part of the bond project in 2000 Hamilton received a new addition that has an auditorium, several new classrooms, and a music and band room. At the time the second addition was made, four more rooms were included through inside remodeling. Eight portable classrooms were placed on the grounds in the late 60s and early 70s. The rest of the rooms were completely renovated in 1972 and the school offices in 1973. In 1976 the cafeteria and halls were remodeled and the library and study hall were converted into a five-room media center.

Mrs. Helen Eckstein was the first principal of Hamilton, staffed with a faculty of 19 teachers. During its first 50 years it had only four principals. Enrollment has fluctuated with the changes in the community. The largest enrollment, centering around 1,100, came just before Mead Junior High was opened. This taxed Hamilton well beyond normal capacity. Enrollment in the 1990s averages approximately 500.

During the school year of 1969-1970, Hamilton School celebrated 50 years of service to the community. Throughout the year, the PTA planned and carried out five birthday parties in place of their regular meetings. Alumni of the school were sent special invitations to attend the celebration for the decade in which they graduated. Attending the first ten-year party were nine teachers who taught at Hamilton during those years and seven members of the first graduating class. Every party was well attended, and it was discovered that many of Wichita's leading citizens were graduates of Hamilton. Guiding light of the year's celebration was Mrs. Bess Rose Kendrick who taught mathematics at Hamilton from 1922-1960 and who helped track down many graduates and make contacts.

Parents of the Kellogg Traditional School petitioned the Board of Education to establish a traditional junior high for their children to continue with the program after elementary school. Beginning the 1981-82 year, Hamilton was renamed the Hamilton Traditional Alternative Junior High School and remained as such until 1988 when all junior high schools became middle schools.

## Jardine Technology Magnet

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Jardine School began its existence as a high school in the Planeview area. At that time the school was known simply as Planeview High School.

The City of Planeview was a wartime housing development built by the federal government in 1943 to provide residences for the thousands of workers who moved into Wichita to man the airplane factories. Within the span of one year Planeview had a population of 20,000 and was the seventh largest city in Kansas.

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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Schools were needed to educate the children of the aircraft workers, and four buildings were constructed: three elementary schools and a six-year high school. These buildings, while adequate, were of temporary wartime construction with a lifetime expectancy of about ten years.

In June 1955, the Planeview area was annexed to the City of Wichita, and in 1955-56 the operation of the schools became the responsibility of the Wichita Board of Education. For two years Planeview High School continued to be operated as a six-year high school. However, with the opening of Wichita High School Southeast in 1957, grades 10, 11 and 12 were transferred to that school and Planeview became a regular junior high school with grades seven, eight and nine. At that time the name was officially changed to the William M. Jardine Junior High School.

Construction of a new building to replace the temporary structure was begun in 1957-58, and the new building was ready for occupancy in September of 1958. The building was designed by Hibbs, Robinson and Pettit, architects, and the total cost was \$1,281,610. The capacity of the building was 850. During subsequent years a total of nine portable units were added.

Dr. William M. Jardine was an educator and author. He was president of Kansas State University and later served as president of Wichita State University. He was affiliated with agricultural research at Kansas State College in Manhattan and served as minister to Egypt. Dr. Jardine was author of numerous papers and bulletins on agriculture, economics and education.

In August 1988, Jardine was selected to house sixth grade students in a pilot middle school program. The following year, the explosion of middle level education emerged in USD 259 and all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8).

On August 6, 1994, a memorial dedication was held on the campus. During the bicentennial Planeview Alumni Reunion, a granite monument was installed at the flag pole of William M. Jardine Middle School in fond memory of the faculty and students of the old Planeview High School, 1943-1957.

At the April 8, 1996 meeting, the Board of Education approved to dissolve the Jardine attendance area at the end of the 1995-96 school year, with students sent to Mead, Truesdell and Curtis, to create an Edison Junior Academy beginning with the 1996-97 school year at the site.

## Marshall

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John Marshall School was completed in 1939 and dedicated January 9, 1940. The school was named in honor of John Marshall, the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

The builder was Armagost and Son Construction Company in cooperation with the Public Works Administration. There were nine classrooms, an auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria, art room, music room, shop and two home economics rooms. A small library was located on the first floor with a part-time librarian provided by the City Library.

C.E. Strange was the first principal. The staff included 15 teachers, a part-time librarian, a visiting teacher who spent part time at Wichita High School North, and one secretary. The nurse came once a week. The school was built for 425 students; however, it opened with 325. As the school continued to grow, the suggestion was made that the Board of Education acquire more land to prepare for expansion. However, this was not deemed necessary, so no land was purchased.

In 1952, twelve rooms were added including a library with a full-time librarian, an additional art room, an instructional music room, shop, a language laboratory, four science rooms and four classrooms. This gave the school a capacity of 650 students. Subsequently, six portable classrooms were added as enrollment increased. Enrollment peaked at approximately 1,000 in 1969-70. After that date, there was a steady decrease to around 500.

It has been said that Marshall was built on the south side of the site because the area to the north was so undeveloped. Now the area is filled with neat homes and a stately church, and the school is the center of a stable community.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8).

In 2000, a school Bond was passed by the city of Wichita. The 2000 Bond allowed for the expansion of Marshall. Marshall received a much needed new cafeteria located on the first floor of the building as opposed to the second floor like the old cafeteria. Land was also purchased to the east of the school for faculty parking. The 2000 Bond saw the addition of a new band room, four new science classrooms, four regular classrooms, air conditioning throughout the building and an elevator to the second floor. Construction for the new additions was complete in 2005.

### **Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet**

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Mayberry School opened September 6, 1955 with an enrollment of 750 students and a staff of 35 teachers. The new structure was built at a cost of \$1,259,300 by the Clarence Vollmer Construction Company. Hibbs, Robinson and Pettit were the architects. The school was named in honor of L.W. Mayberry, who had been superintendent of the Wichita Public Schools from 1912 to 1943. Dedication ceremonies were held November 6, 1955.

On opening day students and staff entered an incomplete building, but one with which they were already familiar. Under the encouragement of Mayberry's first principal, Mr. Alden Salser, community parents, prospective students and staff members had made several trips to the structure and had been involved in meetings aimed at making the first day of school in the new building as smooth as possible.

Another of the organizational meetings was attended by a group of selected students from the four contributing junior high schools. The students toured the building and prepared to serve as tour guides for other students on the opening day of school. This was the beginning of an introduction procedure which was continued in subsequent years.

Soon after the beginning of school, the Student Council was organized using a system of representation from each home room. The first president was Keith Mitchell.

Feeder elementary schools for Mayberry included Lawrence, Eureka, Field, Meridian, Dodge, Payne and Martin. The enrollment reached a peak of approximately 1,000 from 1969 to 1971, and since that time there has been a gradual decrease to about 700.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8). During the 1991-92 school year, Mayberry and Brooks became global education magnet middle schools with different emphasis on curriculum.

### **Mead**

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Mead School opened in September 1952 with an enrollment of 523. The principal, Paul B. Rider, 24 teachers and 10 support staff members greeted the students. Dedication was held March 15, 1953. Dr. Wade Fowler was superintendent of schools and the featured speaker at the dedication services.

Enrollment rose steadily to 930, and new facilities had to be added to meet the needs. Fourteen rooms and supporting facilities were added in 1954. In 1957, the cafeteria and kitchen were enlarged. By 1969, the enrollment had leveled off to 900 and in subsequent years gradually decreased to around 700.

James R. Mead was one of the leading pioneers of Kansas and of Wichita. While a state senator, he met with Governor Crawford and others to select the site for the City of Wichita. He was greatly interested in the development of Wichita and gave liberally to many worthwhile public enterprises. He donated land for many early-day church and school sites in Wichita.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle school (6-8). Anecdote: Rachel Freeman was a member of the last ninth grade class at Mead and her father Wally Freeman was a member of the first ninth grade class of 1953.

In 1982 and 1983, alterations were made to the library and office. When lockers were replaced in 1991, baggies with notes and artifacts were placed behind the new lockers on second floor.

### **Pleasant Valley Middle School**

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This school was developed from the original Sedgwick County School District 128, commonly known as the Pleasant Valley School. In 1953, as a result of the growth of the elementary school at 29th and Athenian, school patrons believed it would be to the educational advantage of their children to have their own junior high school. At this time, some ninth graders went to John Marshall Junior High and then on to Wichita High School North; others went to Valley Center.

The district was blessed with a fairly good valuation for tax purposes, and the school board began to plan for the new building. The architectural firm of Thomas, Harris and Calvin were employed. Their preliminary estimate of the cost of the building was \$600,000. A bond election was held December 1, 1953, and the bond issue was carried by an overwhelming majority.

The building was ready for occupancy with the fall term in 1955. In the fall of 1956, as the result of continued growth in the area, an additional bond issue of \$145,000 was voted to add eight more rooms. These rooms were completed and ready for occupancy by Thanksgiving in the fall of 1956. The architects on the building have been Thomas, Harris and various others who have been associated with this firm since 1953.

From 1956 until 1964, the building housed grades five through nine for District 128. The junior high enrollment (grades seven through nine) averaged 300 to 350 during this period.

The school district was annexed to Wichita in 1962, but the school did not become a part of the Wichita School System until July 1, 1964. In the fall of 1964, the seventh, eighth and ninth grade pupils from Arkansas Avenue School were assigned to this building, and the fifth and sixth grades were housed in the original Pleasant Valley South building.

During the summer of 1966, six additional classrooms were added to the building at a cost of about \$375,000. Junior high school pupils from other rural schools in the northwest suburban area of Wichita, which included Bridgeport, Riverview and North Riverside, were assigned to Pleasant Valley Junior High School in the fall of 1966.

In 1973, the capacity of the building was again increased with the construction of an addition that included 18 rooms and an auditorium. The cost of this construction was \$1,600,000.

Enrollment for the first year of Pleasant Valley Junior High in 1955 was 168 with 11 teachers. B.E. Terrell served either as a combination superintendent of the Pleasant Valley Schools and junior high principal, or as junior high principal from the time



the building was first planned in 1953 until his retirement in 1974.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8). Enrollment currently averages around 950.

## Robinson

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The school is located on the east side of Wichita in the College Hill and Lincoln Heights area. The three story building was completed in 1931 in the then popular Art Deco style and is enjoyed by all who enter its doors.

**Date of Initial Construction:** 1932; the Robinson bond project began in the spring of 2003 and was completed in fall of 2004. It brought a new cafeteria, remodeled science classrooms, air conditioning, additional classrooms, new vocal and instrumental classrooms, and upgraded infrastructure.

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The site for Robinson School at the northeast corner of Oliver and Second Streets was secured through condemnation procedures which were approved by the Board of Education on April 6, 1931. Plans for the new school by the architect, Ed Forsblom, were accepted on that date.

At the May 1931 Board meeting, it was decided the school would be called the Charles Robinson Intermediate School after the first Governor of the State of Kansas. Bids were received on July 6, 1931, and contracts totaling \$194,980 were awarded.

This was during the "great depression," and the records show the Board of Education purchased 343 student desks at \$2 each from C.H. Westgate in April 1932. They also purchased \$408 worth of used industrial arts equipment from Fred Buckley, a private individual, to save money. Cafeteria equipment was purchased for \$3,532.

On July 15, 1932, Robinson was inspected and accepted by the Board of Education. Paul H. Good was named the first principal. The building was formally opened and dedicated on October 21, 1932.

In its first year nearly 300 students attended Robinson. East Wichita continued to grow, and to house the increasing student population, permanent additions were constructed in 1937 and 1948. The 1937 construction provided a six-room addition at the cost of \$51,250. The second addition in 1948 added nine classrooms, a shop, and an enlargement of the school cafeteria.

From 1957 through 1963, nine portable classrooms were added. The student population at Robinson by 1964 had reached 1,100 students in grades seven, eight and nine. In 1961, all Wichita intermediate schools were retitled junior high schools, so the school became Robinson Junior High School. A new spectator gymnasium was constructed in 1976. The existing boys' gym was converted into a library, while the old library was remodeled into a classroom, a conference room and a language laboratory. In 1993, the boiler was replaced.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8).

In 1995, the Board of Education approved the concept of a middle school international baccalaureate to be housed at Robinson. Plans began immediately to implement the program beginning the fall of 1996.

## Stucky

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Stucky Middle School opened in Fall 2003. Stucky was named after Dean R. Stucky, a prominent educator in Wichita for many years. He was instrumental in working with curriculum, staff and diversity for many years in his leadership positions, including Deputy Superintendent. His wife, Hilda, was a teacher at Southeast High School.

Stucky was a part of the \$284.5 million Bond Issue under the direction of Former Superintendent Winston Brooks. Koch Industries donated 40 acres for the middle school, the first built in Wichita in 35 years. Construction began in 2002 and was completed in Fall 2003. Ken Jantz, Stucky's first principal, supervised final building construction. The school was built to hold 600 students, but the Koch Auditorium and the large gym can accommodate 800, allowing for expansion. The school was expanded in 2006, with the addition of 13 classrooms. Stucky's design includes 3 pods, each containing the core classes for a grade level. The first class to complete all three grades at Stucky was promoted to high school in May 2006.

Terrell Davis was appointed principal in August 2006. Initiatives under his direction include a partnership with Southwestern College, and partnerships with Kansas State University and the University of Kansas. The Southwestern College partnership began in 2006, and every Stucky alumni who is accepted at Southwestern College is promised a \$25,000 scholarship. During Mr. Davis' tenure, he will oversee a second expansion as a result of the 2008 Bond Issue. Plans are currently underway for Stucky to receive four new classrooms designed as a FEMA shelter and a new 8-lane track.

## Truesdell

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Truesdell Junior High School was named after B.W. Truesdell who was an administrator at Wichita High School East and was superintendent of schools for Sedgwick County. While at East High he was affectionately referred to as "Uncle Benny."

Truesdell was constructed in 1955, and classes were first held on September 7, 1956. Hibbs, Robinson and Pettit were architects for the building which had a capacity of 750. Dedication services were held November 11, 1956.

As various areas south of the city were annexed, the enrollment increased, and by 1962, Truesdell had 16 portable units.

In 1960, a decision was made that the original Truesdell building and the Rea Woodman Elementary School next door would be connected and combined to serve as a junior high facility. In addition to physically connecting the two adjoining buildings by corridors, a science wing, industrial arts rooms, a boys physical education facility and a second dining area were constructed to complete the present structure. The capacity of the building was increased to 1,800. A new Rea Woodman school was constructed at 2500 Hiram.

In 1982, a library addition was added with additional remodeling for the administrative office center. Air conditioning was a consideration and was added to the new portion of the structure at the same time.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle school (6-8).

The addition of the physically handicapped program to the building in 1991 caused extensive remodeling of the facility to bring it up to full handicapped accessibility. Other improvements in the facility were the replacement of 800 lockers in 1993, boys locker room lockers in 1994, and bleacher replacement in the gold gym in 1992.

Curriculum changes in 1990 saw an alteration in the physical plant as classrooms were remodeled to accommodate the technical education program. The home economics rooms were converted in 1995 through remodeling to accommodate a

curriculum change to implement the life management laboratory.

Truesdell celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2005-2006 with a number of events culminating in a community celebration on Sunday, April 23, 2006. A book reflecting the history of Truesdell (Junior High) Middle School was published and available for sale. T-shirts were designed to reflect the years a former (or present) student attended Truesdell as well as the years staff had served at the school. For a number of staff, they marked the years they spent here as a student as well as their tenure as a staff member. Tradition is alive at our school as we have had three generations of families attend Truesdell!

## Wilbur

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The educational facility at 340 North Tyler Road, formerly Madonna High School and now Lawrence E. Wilbur Middle School, has an unusual and special history of service to the community. The school owns the rather unique distinction of having served two major educational systems and having been involved in both parochial and public school traditions.

On September 1, 1965, ground was broken by Bishop Byrne for a new high school for the Catholic Diocese of Wichita. Feagins and Kirsch were architects for the structure which was dedicated March 19, 1967. By 1971, it became apparent the Diocese could no longer financially afford to maintain the all-girls high school, and the facility was offered for sale to the Board of Education of USD 259.

On March 30, 1971, Madonna High School was purchased by the Board of Education at a cost of \$1,000,000. The sum of \$175,000 was allocated for remodeling to prepare the school for use as a junior high school by September 1971.

The name was officially changed on May 24, 1971 to Lawrence E. Wilbur Junior High School. Lawrence E. Wilbur was a teacher and administrator in the Wichita schools. For many years he was business manager and secretary-treasurer of the largest school system in Kansas. He was a product of the community, having been educated at Peterson Elementary School (then a one-room building), at Allison Junior High, and at Wichita High School East.

During its first year of operation as a public school, Wilbur served only grades seven and eight, and the beginning enrollment was 718. With addition of the ninth grade in 1972-73, the enrollment increased to 1,107, and the student population remained around this level until 1988.

In 1972-73, a boys gymnasium and industrial arts complex was added at a cost of \$400,000. A running track was completed in 1976.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools leaving 739 seventh and eighth graders. In the fall of 1989, all junior high schools became middle schools (6-8). For a short time, Wilbur was the only middle school in Wichita to serve only grades seven and eight. In order to alleviate crowding, sixth grade students in the Wilbur attendance area went to Hadley Middle School for sixth grade only, returning to Wilbur for grades seven and eight. Today sixth, seventh and eighth graders attend Wilbur.

## K-8 SCHOOLS

### Gordon Parks Academy

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Gordon Parks Academy is Wichita Public Schools' newest school, located in Northeast Wichita. It opened its doors to students in August 2008.

### Horace Mann Dual Language Magnet

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Horace Mann opened for school in the fall of 1918 as Horace Mann Intermediate School, one of the first junior high schools west of the Mississippi River. The school was named for Horace Mann, outstanding New England educator and inventor who lived during the first half of the nineteenth century.

The initial building was completed in 1917 and was added to in 1918. In 1950, an addition was constructed consisting of a gymnasium-auditorium combination, two art rooms and a small theater used for instrumental music. Portables were added in 1960, 1961 and 1968. Remodeling of the library, offices and corridors was completed in 1976.

The first room for the educable mentally handicapped was added in 1961. Later three more rooms were provided to serve pupils in the area north of Douglas and west of Broadway.

Originally the school was located in the affluent section of town where some of the finest large homes were situated. As families moved to suburbs and other areas of the city, this inner city area changed, and many large homes were converted to apartments. Consequently, the school population became one with a high rate of mobility.

In the first 40 years, school enrollment fluctuated from 650 to a high of more than 800 pupils. After 1970, the enrollment gradually decreased to less than 500. The school was well integrated with just over 30 percent black, about 14 percent Hispanic, and the remainder white in those days.

On May 16, 1977, the Board of Education voted to initiate a middle school program during 1977-78 at Horace Mann school on an experimental basis and approved changing the name of the school to Horace Mann Middle School. The school opened in September 1977 with an enrollment of 386 pupils, including grades six, seven and eight. The ninth graders in the Horace Mann attendance area attended Wichita High School North.

In 1989, Horace Mann was combined with Irving and Park Elementary Schools to become a foreign language magnet elementary school with grades 3-5 housed at Irving and Park. Enrollment remained about 450 students with 56 percent Hispanic, 16 percent black and 23 percent white.

In 1997, the Irving/Horace Mann program received a grant to begin a Two-Way Bilingual Program. Goals included: (1) to promote high achievement of oral language proficiency, literacy and writing in both English and Spanish, (2) to establish a strong academic based curriculum in two languages, and (3) to embrace the diversity of our multicultural world. On October 28, 2002, the Board unanimously approved designating Horace Mann as a dual-language magnet program beginning with K-7 in 2003-2004, and K-8 in 2004-2005. The name was changed to Horace Mann Dual Language Magnet. Irving became a K-5 neighborhood elementary school.

## Excerpts from “A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings”

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The Horace Mann program offers a two-way dual language program where all students learn a second language through content-based instruction, while enhancing the first language. The dual language program provides a unique opportunity for students to learn English and Spanish simultaneously by providing standards-based instruction in both languages. English and Spanish speakers are united in the dual language class, which is ideally made up of 50% English speakers and 50% Spanish speakers. This allows both groups to benefit from exposure to native speakers. Students are then taught a highly academic curriculum in both languages, with a strong emphasis placed on students learning to read in their native language first.

In April 2000, the voters of the Wichita School District approved a \$284.5 million bond issue. The projects began in the fall of 2000 and were completed over the next five years. The plan built 19 multipurpose rooms, upgraded science labs, replaced portable classrooms with permanent construction, improved handicap accessibility to all buildings, rebuilt five existing elementary schools, added a new elementary and middle school, expanded seven other elementary schools and provided nine new libraries as well as the expansion of nine others. Building infrastructure in 82 buildings was also upgraded, including the replacement of antiquated plumbing, updates and expansion of electrical systems, replacement of inefficient or broken windows and doors, upgrades of heating and cooling systems, and asbestos abatement when required.

The district entered into an agreement with architectural firm Schaefer, Johnson, Cox, Frey for a four-section prototype to be built at Washington and Horace Mann Elementaries. Key Construction, Inc. completed these Bond projects.

To complete Horace Mann's construction, the district purchased properties at 1212 and 1210 N. Main, and also 1309 North Market. The original Horace Mann building was demolished. The new building dedication was held September 16, 2003.

## HIGH SCHOOLS

### East

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In January 1922, the citizens of Wichita voted bonds for a new Wichita High School. Two years earlier it had become apparent the old high school was too small to house an increasing number of pupils. A large tract of land east of the canal on East Douglas, owned by pioneer Wichitan J. Hudson McKnight, was considered to be the logical location for such a building. After some months of negotiation, the Board of Education purchased the 68 acres for \$150,400 and selected Mr. Lorentz Schmidt as the architect for the million dollar structure.

The new building, named Wichita High School (changed to Wichita High School East in 1929 when North High opened), was composed of three main, distinct units: the main building, gymnasium and the shops. The auditorium had a 90-foot stage framed with a Tudor-style proscenium and a seating capacity of 2,200. A laundry, an ice plant, an office vault, a greenhouse, a separate heating plant and cloistered walks connecting the separate units were other attractions. Architecturally, the building was a modified form of Collegiate Gothic.

Because of a growing interest in vocational and industrial arts, a vocational building was added in 1931 and another in 1952. From 1952 to 1968, approximately 500-700 students annually enrolled in a variety of vocational courses. In the summer of 1968, the \$1,100,000 Vocational Technical Center of the Wichita Area Vocational-Technical School (now Wichita Area Technical College, Grove Campus) was opened on the East High campus. This center, with a separate administration, offered 18 different areas of training in trade and industry to students and adults.

In 1960, the East High swimming pool was enlarged and the kitchen and cafeteria areas renovated. In 1964, the walkway

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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between the main building and the old shops was enclosed and heated. In 1976-77, a library media center and cafeteria facility to serve both East High and Roosevelt Junior High were constructed, and the old cafeteria, library and administrative office areas were remodeled.

For eight years of the school's history the enrollment exceeded 3,000. A peak of 3,324 occurred in 1952 just before Wichita High School West opened, and another 3,195 in 1956 before Southeast opened. To accommodate the large enrollment, East acquired two portables in 1963. After 1965, the enrollment declined because of the commercialization of the surrounding area. The current enrollment stands at approximately 2,000.

In 1991, the stone filigree of the original cloistered walk between the East building and the gym was torn down. The filigree had deteriorated to the point that it was unsafe for the walk to be open. According to an article published in the May 17, 1991 *Messenger*, the filigree is to be rebuilt in an historically correct style.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools. In 1990, a handicap lift was installed, and Roosevelt Middle School was closed and alterations made to the building for use by East. The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is currently housed in the building.

## Heights

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The Wichita Heights Rural High School District No. 192 was organized in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas on January 6, 1959. The purpose of the organization was to provide a four-year rural high school for an increasing number of pupils from five common, non high school districts in the area. At that time, secondary school students attended 11 different schools in Wichita and Sedgewick County. Overcrowded conditions in these schools seriously restricted the educational opportunity of all students involved. The people of the five common school districts petitioned the County Commission for authority to hold an election to decide whether or not a rural high school district should be organized within the boundaries previously approved by the County Superintendent of Schools. The election was held on December 9, 1958, and was carried by an overwhelming majority.

At a January 5, 1959 meeting, school board members were elected, and the boundaries of Common School Districts No. 51, Kechi Center; No. 184, Kechi; No. 170 North Riverside; No. 171, Riverview; and No. 169, Bridgeport, became the boundaries of Rural High School District No. 192. On March 16, 1959, two administrators were elected by the school board to assist in planning the building and the educational program. It was the desire of the school board to provide a building and program that would meet the very comprehensive educational needs of the community.

The architectural firm of Anderson, Srack and Johnson was employed to design a building for approximately 1,200 students. The Vollmer Construction Company was the successful bidder for the general contract. A bond election was passed on July 31, 1959 and actual construction started shortly thereafter. The building site was selected near the geographic center of the Rural High School District at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street and North Hillside. The building was opened for school in the fall of 1961.

Heights High School operated under the control of Rural High School District No. 192 for two years. In December 1962, the rural high school district petitioned for attachment to the Wichita Public School District No. 1. The petition was approved, and in July 1963, Heights entered the Wichita system as a four-year high school. In 1966, the ninth grade was dropped, and Heights became a three-year senior high school.

Enrollment at Heights increased from 706 pupils in September 1961 to a high of 1,770 in September 1969. During the years of growing enrollment, a total of 15 portable units were added. Since 1970, there has been a gradual decrease in school population to approximately 1,200 pupils.

In 1976-77, a new gymnasium and a media center were constructed. McVay, Schmidt and Allen were the architects for the

addition.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools.

## **Metro-Boulevard**

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The building which now houses Metro-Boulevard Alternative High School was used as an elementary school for 44 years. With the construction of the Canal Route (I-135), the Willard area became smaller, and at the close of the 1970-71 school year the use of the building as an elementary attendance center was discontinued.

The Metropolitan Secondary Program Center, an alternative high school for youth aged 16 to 21, opened October 26, 1970 in the auditorium and conference room at the Central Vocational School (now Wichita Area Technical College Central Campus). The original enrollment was 27 students served by a staff of two and one-half teachers and a director, M. Claradine Johnson. In November the school was moved to rented facilities on South Topeka. By the end of the 1970-71 school year, enrollment was 111 students. Metro moved to permanent quarters in the remodeled Willard building at 751 George Washington Boulevard in August of 1971.

Metro was established by the Board of Education to meet the special educational needs of students who have not remained in the comprehensive high school or are transferred by the sending high school to Metro. Credits earned apply toward a high school diploma and the school is fully accredited by the Kansas Board of Education and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

The facility was remodeled and the Metropolitan Secondary Program Center moved into the Willard building in August 1971. It then became known as Metro Boulevard Alternative High School.

Since the 1971-72 school year, Metro has operated with a capacity enrollment of approximately 200 students. The professional staff is comprised of 11 teachers, a counselor, a part-time librarian, a part-time nurse and an administrator. Classified employees assigned to the school include a secretary, a clerk, a math aide and a custodian.

Metro classes housed in the permanent building include language arts, math and home economics plus the general office and counselor and principal offices on the first floor. The library, nurse's office, two social studies and business education classrooms, an art lab and two language arts classrooms are on the second floor. A single portable annex is used for science, and industrial technology classes are offered in a triple portable annex. A child care learning center was added in the fall of 1991. It is able to care for 16 infants and toddlers. Between 1991 and 1994 the entire building was wired for computer networking and each classroom has cable television.

As a result of the acquisition of the parking area by the Highway Commission and the close proximity of the four-lane Canal Route highway (I-135), the building was air conditioned by the state to meet federal noise and air pollution standards.

## **Metro-Meridian**

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Metro-Meridian Alternative High School opened in January 1979 in the building which formerly housed Meridian Elementary School. The decision to expand the alternative school concept was made by the Board of Education in light of the waiting list of students seeking to enter Metro-Boulevard and the difficulties in transportation for students living in the west Wichita area. Four professional staff members were assigned to the new west location, and approximately 75 students were in



## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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attendance during the first semester. Both alternative school campuses operated under the direction of a single principal.

In the fall of 1979, the Metro-Meridian staff was expanded to six and one-half teacher positions and a counselor/lead teacher, plus support staff of a librarian, nurse, psychologist and social worker who were shared with the Boulevard campus. The current population averages 200 students with a certificated staff of 16 (both full- and part-time) with assistance from five classified staff members. The building houses 11 classrooms with two rooms utilized as a Child Development Center. The multipurpose room is currently utilized for two math classrooms in the a.m. and P.E. in the p.m.

Although the program has expanded to meet the needs of a diverse student population, its philosophy remains the same to provide a positive, educational environment that offers the student self-paced individualized instruction.

### **Metro-Midtown**

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Metro-Midtown Alternative High School is housed in the old Webster Elementary School. Webster enrollment had declined to only 154 pupils by 1958, and a second administration building was needed.

The Board of Education decided to close the school for pupil attendance on October 17, 1958 with pupils going to Emerson and Park. When first becoming an administration building, it was known as the Curriculum Services Building. However, in 1971-72 when the Pupil Services Division moved there, the name was changed to Educational Services Building. In 1988, the district purchased buildings at 217-245 N. Water to house all administrative offices and the Educational Services Building was vacated.

In the fall of 1988, the building was remodeled for an attendance center again and was completed for Metro-Midtown to occupy by January 1989. Area One administrative offices were housed in the building until the summer of 1990. In the fall of 1990, remodeling was again underway to add three additional classrooms and a library to the growing Midtown program. In January 1991, the classrooms were completed for occupancy.

The first year Metro-Midtown opened it had approximately 40 students housed at a temporary site at the old Alcott School at 3300 E. Murdock until remodeling was completed at 640 N. Emporia. Student enrollment climbed to 125 by the end of the school year and Midtown graduated its first senior class of six students. Metro-Midtown maintains an enrollment of 200 and graduates between 50-55 seniors each year.

### **North**

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"A history of Kansas, written in steel and stone," was a phrase that was used to describe Wichita High School North when the building was first completed in 1929. However, the history of North truly had its origin many years before the land was purchased and the building construction began in 1928. The Indian theme used throughout the design of the building is more than a matter of choice - the Indian was responsible, indirectly, for the founding of North High School.

The original design of North High, constructed 80 years ago, did not include the West classroom wing, the old auto shop, or the girls gym. The original building was much smaller then and built around an open courtyard with the west side open to the river. When North was built, the west and east sides of the river were heavily wooded. Most of the original, beautiful trees along the river are gone today. The distinctive architectural detailing established by Glen Thomas (the original architect), using a Native American theme, has been cherished by the Wichita community since North opened.

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Bruce Moore, an artist who graduated from Wichita High School North, designed the decorative portions of the building exterior. Using his knowledge of the site's history, Mr. Moore used a pioneer/Indian theme for his design. He constructed the original small-scale figures of plaster. Full-sized figures were then made and arranged to tell a story of pioneer days; the Indian chief, scout, hunter, and teepee represent the Indians in the story; the buffalo, eagle, plowman, sunflower, and state seal symbolize the early pioneers.

When North opened in 1929, it had an enrollment of 800 students and forty faculty members. Mr. Grover Dotzour was the first Principal at North. North has had twelve principals.

1929-1933 and 1937-1941	Mr. Grover Dotzour
1933-1937	Mr. L.W. Brooks
1941-1945	Mr. O.E. Bonecutter
1945-1968	Mr. C.E. Strange
1968-1977	Dr. John Gasper
1977-1984	Dr. Paul Longhofer
1984-1986	Dr. Robert Anderson
1986-1988	Dr. Cliff Muci
1988-1990	Mr. Mel Johnson
1990-1998	Mr. Ralph Teran
1998-2003	Mr. Roel Quintanilla
2003-2006	Ms. Denise Wren
2006-present	Mr. Sherman Wm. Padgett

There are very few buildings in Wichita that have the historical significance of North. We are fortunate that the community, as part of the 2000 Bond Issue, allocated significant funds to preserve and upgrade this important landmark.

As enrollment has increased and programs added, North has been expanded and modified many times. In the 1950s, an auto building, girls gym, and the west three-story classroom wing were constructed. These additions, unfortunately, cut off the views of the river to the west. During the 1970s, the original courtyard was filled in with a windowless library and the PE/athletic complex was expanded. When the ninth graders were moved to North High in the 1980s, the third floor cafeteria was converted to classrooms and part of the lower level west wing turned into a snack/cafeteria space.

Increases in enrollment at North necessitated a number of additions to the building: the auto mechanics shop (1950), girls gymnasium (1951), and in the fall of 1957, the three-story extension on the south wing. During this time, it was also necessary to use the annex buildings to accommodate classes. By 1972, thirteen annexes were in use. In 1975, North was allocated 1.7 million from a bond issue. The funds were used to add a library, classrooms, provide extensive renovation of science classrooms, offices, a woodworking room, add an extension to the small gymnasium, improve both the boys' and girls' physical education dressing rooms and shower areas, and a number of other improvements and/or additions made it possible to remove all but three annex buildings. Acquisition of land across from the school in 1977, 1980, and 1982 has enabled the school district to provide ample student parking. Several senior classes have donated funds each year to be used to purchase a marquee sign for the student parking lot. The marquee is used to highlight student activities and provide recognition for worthy accomplishments of students.

When planning began for the recent expansion renovation, our community planning team had several aesthetic goals in mind.

- The design should be sympathetic with the original architecture
- Add natural light into the library
- Create a new courtyard similar to the original
- Engage the river and improve the west side visual image
- Preserve the Rochester street side of the building (as is)
- Upgrade science, art, business, music, cafeteria, classroom and administrative space

Our design includes a classroom wing along the river that provides new science labs, new music classrooms, and general

## Excerpts from "A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings"

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classrooms. By relocating the auto tech and metals programs across the street, the new KIVA courtyard was created where auto mechanics used to be. The old metals labs were converted to art space. The new cafeteria addition to the South gives students a commons area for lunch and space for programs or other large group activities. The 1970s library was completely remodeled and a raised clear story added to let light into the center of the library. A lecture room was added for North High students and USD 259 school board use.

One of the most popular renovations is the adding of air conditioning. The old heating system was replaced with a new system that heats and cools the building. The old restrooms have also been updated, most classrooms improved and technology updated throughout the building.

"As architects for the North High renovation, the challenge of adding onto a cherished Wichita landmark was daunting. Finding a balance between 21st century needs and 1920's historical architectural design provided the greatest test. With the tremendous input of North High staff and community members, I believe we successfully added space along the river and 13th Street without detracting from the original design."

(Data for the North High history was obtained from the writings of Bob Boyer '54, Marsha Kifer '64, Bob Tosing, Sr., Dr. John Gasper, Dr. Paul Longhofer, and Kenton L. Cox '60, Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture, Project Manager, and a number of community and school publications.)

### **Northeast Magnet**

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Northeast Magnet High School opened in 1990 as a secondary school of choice in the Community Education Center, originally Mathewson Intermediate School.

In 1988, the district administration surveyed all eighth through eleventh grade students in the district to determine what special or choice high school programs would be most attractive. The responses indicated a very strong interest in science/technology, as well as the visual arts.

The Community Education Center site was chosen because of its proximity to Wichita State University. The colleges of Engineering and Fine Arts enthusiastically worked in the development of the program.

Necessary remodeling was done and the Northeast Magnet High School began in August 1990 with the magnet choices of science/technology and visual art. The boiler was replaced in 1989.

### **Northwest**

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It had become quite evident since the early 1960s that additional facilities were needed in the northwest section of the city to accommodate secondary students residing in the fast-growing Westlink-Country Acres area. The Board of Education approved the purchase of 161 acres of land at 13th Street and Tyler Road in May 1967.

After years of planning and financial struggle to match capital outlay available to capital outlay necessary, Northwest High School was started in January 1975 with the appointment of architects Schaefer, Schirmer and Associates. A request was made to the City of Wichita on May 17, 1976, to annex the property for school purposes, and bids for construction were awarded for the new high school on July 12, 1976, to Law and Co. for the new high school building to contain approximately 220,000 square feet. The first principal, John Gasper, was named in the spring of 1977 to coordinate the details of construction with the academic program, to select the staff, and make other preparations necessary to open the \$10.4 million high school at the beginning of the 1978-79 school year. Designed to accommodate 1,600 students, the facility

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opened on August 28, 1978, with 1,267 students and 111 staff, including 67 teachers, and with colors of royal blue and gold and the Grizzlies mascot.

The facility housed 67 regular classrooms and 12 additional teaching areas in physical education, the auditorium, and the 11,000 square foot library. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 804, the gymnasium can seat 2,800, and the commons can accommodate 330. There is a six-lane swimming pool 25 yards long with folding bleachers for 400 spectators.

The facility includes a commons area as the center for student activity. This same area serves as a dining facility, a study area, an informal social gathering place and a foyer area for theater use. Surrounding the commons are administrative offices, instructional areas, student lockers and food service areas. Portions of the 800-seat theater, adjacent to the commons, have folding partitions that form two large-group instructional spaces. The physical education complex is located at the terminal of one of the students streets and a large multipurpose gymnasium with seating for 2,900 on folding bleachers. A large physical education area, equivalent to three basketball courts in size, is created when the bleachers are folded back.

Changes to the physical plan during the 1980s included the enclosing of some of the classrooms that were originally designed to promote open learning and student centers. During the middle 1980s, athletic fields including a football stadium, soccer, baseball and softball fields, were completed.

During the 1988-89 school year, ninth grade students were added to the student body. This 33 percent increase in the student body resulted in the addition of 25 professional staff positions. Seven portable classrooms were added to accommodate the addition of the ninth grade class. These were placed on the east side of the main complex. Enrollment averages around 1400.

## South

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Wichita High School South became the fifth public senior high school when its doors were opened to 1,500 students on September 4, 1959. The sprawling \$3,121,957 one-story structure is located on a 40-acre tract near the south city limits of Wichita on West 33rd Street South.

A \$2,185,200 contract for general construction was awarded to Clarence E. Vollmer Construction in June, 1957. The Moore Robertson Company obtained the \$649,725 plumbing and heating contract, and Southwestern Electrical Company installed \$287,032 worth of electrical materials. Built-in equipment in the building added another \$260,000 to the cost, while movable equipment and furniture amounted to \$225,000. The parking lot, outside physical education facilities and other miscellaneous expenses were listed at \$120,000.

In the building, a total of 226,200 square feet of classroom and auxiliary facilities enclose 5.2 acres of area under a continuous roof. Another two acres of courtyards and patios add beauty to the setting of the structure designed by Wichita architects Forsblom and Parks. Parking space for 397 cars, the entrance drives and surrounding lawns account for an additional 15 acres. Much of the remaining portion of the site was developed into physical education areas, including a regulation size football field, a quarter-mile track, tennis courts, baseball and softball diamonds, an archery range and other recreational space. Carpenter Stadium for football and track was built in 1977.

Red brick was used as the basic material for the fire-resistant building, which is a modification of the plan used for Wichita High School Southeast. Major improvements in the plan used for South High included redesigning the guidance center facilities, adding a secondary hallway to connect four academic wings, changing building materials to improve acoustics in the auditorium, and adding nine new classrooms with almost 15,000 square feet of additional space.

The former Sims Elementary School building was added to South High beginning the 1988-89 school year. The extra classroom space was needed with the ninth grade added to high school. The enrollment has leveled to an average of 1,300

students.

Four wings reach westward from the 450-foot north and south main corridor. The cafeteria fronts the main hall and seats 500 persons at one time. The physical education wing includes a boys gym which can seat 1,300 spectators at varsity contests, a girls gym, a rhythm floor, four classrooms, a 60-by-25-foot swimming pool and three locker rooms.

As enrollment increased, portables were added and by 1969-70, 15 electrically heated and cooled units were necessary to accommodate the 2,567 students. This was an increase of 1,067 above the number enrolled in 1959, the first year of operation.

In 1976, the courtyard was enclosed for a new library, and adjacent classrooms made windowless by the construction were renovated. Hall lockers were replaced in 1995.

*From A History of Wichita Public School Buildings, c 1997*

The school district passed a comprehensive bond issue in April 2000 for \$284.5 million of improvements. The South High construction began on our site in November 2003 and concluded in 2007. South High's \$10.1 million dollars of renovations included: 27 new classrooms, expansion of a major hallway intersection and relocation of support administration/staff to a common area. All of the portable classroom buildings were removed and all classroom spaces are now air-conditioned. With the passing of another bond issue in the fall of 2008, Wichita South will also have approximately \$11 million dollars worth of improvements to the athletic and fine arts facilities.

## Southeast

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Wichita High School Southeast opened in September 1957 with 1,578 students and a faculty of 67 teachers and three administrators. Designed by the architectural firm of Wendell Parks and Sons, the building was modern in style and was faced with salmon colored bricks accented by exposed concrete structural elements. Built originally on a single level, its 66 classrooms and its auditorium, cafeteria, library and two gymnasiums ranged over a considerable portion of its 60 acres of campus.

A major addition to the building in 1968-69 raised the number of classrooms to 98, and the low line of the building was changed slightly by the addition of a high ceiling library and mezzanine area totaling over 12,000 square feet of floor space and a second-story addition of five classrooms in the inner court area. Also included in the new additions were specialized educable mentally handicapped and reading laboratory facilities as well as classrooms, language laboratories and team teaching rooms. The expansion provided for a student body of 2,480 pupils and required the faculty be expanded to 108.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools, making them four-year institutions.

In 1992, a classroom was converted into a black box theatre for the drama department.

In 2004, a new wing was constructed at the south end of the building. The classrooms were constructed specifically for science and foreign language classes.

In 2008, Wichita citizens approved a multi-million dollar bond issue to construct new classrooms, gymnasiums, swimming pools, fine arts classrooms, and safe rooms.

## West

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In September 1953, Wichita High School West opened, the culmination of a drive begun in 1925 when the West Wichita Community Council started campaigning for a high school west of the Arkansas River. Twenty years elapsed before plans for a vocational-technical school started. Development of these plans resulted in an academic school now classified as a comprehensive high school by the North Central Association.

The one-story, intercom equipped, multi-wing building designed by architects Glen H. Thomas and A.B. Harris served as the prototype for the later construction of Wichita High Schools South and Southeast. The building was regarded as adequate for the long-range needs of the community; but by the third year of operation it was necessary to add 25 classrooms, and by 1971 the building was surrounded by 24 portable units. The first year the student body totaled 1,035 students; by 1959 there were 1,907. The rapid growth made it impossible to practice the original concept of having each department housed in its own wing. The faculty doubled and the enrollment more than doubled. A new library media center was added in 1976 and the existing library was renovated. In 1979, Wichita High School Northwest opened which caused the enrollment at West to decrease.

At its inception, only 22 percent of the graduates went on to college. Therefore, the curriculum reflected an emphasis on vocational preparation. In the large homemaking department the students studied food preparation, family budgeting, child care and family relations so they were prepared to enter home and family life. The business education department offered courses in stenography, secretarial training, retail selling and business, and the industrial education department offered printing, mechanical drawing, general metals, woodworking, auto mechanics, electricity and other trades.

The first graduating class erected a memorial to the Pioneers of the West. The class of 1956 planned its own commencement with student speakers, a practice since adopted by other schools in the city. In 1969, a group of art students and their instructor created a sculptured relief mural in fired clay, 20 feet long and 15 feet high, outside the school office. The cast bronze-effect mural illustrates mathematics, art, music, drama, social studies, science, industrial arts, language arts, home economics and business curricular areas.

Lockers were replaced in 1981. In 1988 and 1989, alterations were made to the cafeteria and several classrooms.

In the fall of 1988, all ninth graders were moved to high schools. The enrollment has leveled to an average of 1,500 students.

## SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

### Arkansas Avenue Programs/Gateway Alternative

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The Arkansas Avenue School District 1 was formed in 1922 with the following men serving on the first Board of Education: D.S. Hill, director; M.S. Wood, Ernest R. Johnson, H.D. Heller and Jake Martin. Bonds were voted, and a two-room school building was completed in 1923.

Prior to the 1923 school term, pupils from District 120 attended a small white frame school, called Riverside, located on the east side of Arkansas Avenue and north of 37<sup>th</sup> Street. This school became so overcrowded that pupils could attend only one-

## Excerpts from “A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings”

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half day sessions. Apparently, the land owners north of 37<sup>th</sup> Street had few children and were not interested in building additional classrooms; therefore, it became necessary to organize the new School District 120.

The school opened in September 1923 with 77 pupils. John Dunkelberger served as principal-teacher, and Myrtle Hickcox taught the lower grades.

A strong community spirit of pride developed, with the school being the focal point of community activities. Many people grew up in the community, and the third generation of children attended the school in 1970.

An active Parent-Teacher Association was organized on October 23, 1923 with the principal, John Dunkelberger, serving as the first president. The P.T.A. grew from 56 members in 1923 to 643 in 1958. The P.T.A. rendered many services to the school, such as starting a hot lunch program, buying stage curtains, and providing books and equipment.

There have been seven additions to the original building because of increases in enrollment. Major additions were made in 1931, 1942, 1947, 1951, 1953, 1961 and 1963. The present building has 28 regular classrooms, a library, a lunch room that seats 220 pupils, a gymnasium and adequate office facilities.

School District 120 was annexed to Unified School District 259 in 1964. The school continued to serve pupils from kindergarten through the eighth grade during the 1964-65 school year, after which the school enrolled pupils in kindergarten through the sixth grade.

At the beginning of the 1988-89 year, sixth grade students were incorporated into the middle school program, leaving a PK-5 enrollment of approximately 300 students.

At the April 8, 1996 meeting, the Board of Education approved the closing of Arkansas Avenue School at the end of the 1995-96 school year, with students sent to Earhart and Cloud.

During the summer of 1996, the Board of Education approved a proposal to expand the Gateway program to include a long-term program for students expelled from the district. This expansion proposal retained the assessment, screening and treatment component of the original Gateway Program. In addition to this, the Board of Education added an academic program, allowing expelled students to continue their work toward graduation under a probationary status. Seven teachers, two security guards, two paraprofessionals, and a part-time clerical worker were added to the staff to accommodate a projected population of 100-plus students. In addition to the staff procured within the district's employee pool, a full-time Treatment Coordinator was hired through a contract with Com-Care (formally Sedgwick County Mental Health).

The Arkansas Avenue Elementary School was then converted to a secure building for housing expelled middle and high school students. The Gateway Alternative Program was the successful integration of three separate programs: The Maude Carpenter Alternative Middle School, the Sowers Alternative High School (regular education), and the Gateway Counseling Program.

In the Fall of 2005, The Gateway Alternative Program was staffed with nine teachers, one paraprofessional and two security officers. Support staff, a third security officer, clerical staff and custodial staff were shared by all programs on the Arkansas Avenue Campus. Gateway also serves as a clinical setting at which area Schools of Social Work assign interns for valuable group and individual therapeutic experience.

### Arkansas Avenue Alternative Educational Setting (AES)

The AES Program was started during the 1997-98 school year to serve students with disabilities who required special education services during temporary removal from their base schools. Most of these placements were for 30-45 days while the base school's Child Study Team conducted a reevaluation and Manifestation Determination. The program was staffed in 1997 with two high school teachers, one middle school teacher, three paraprofessionals and a security officer.

In 2004, faced with a rapidly-increasing expulsion rate among students with disabilities for violent or drug-related crimes, the USD 259 Office of Special Education began assigning special ed students who had been expelled by the District Hearing Officer to the Arkansas Avenue AES. These students receive their Free and Public Education in the AES setting for the duration



of their expulsion, which is usually one school year.

#### Arkansas Avenue Computerized Education Center

The Arkansas Avenue Computerized Education Center was created by the Board of Education during the 2001-02 school year to offer limited academic services to students expelled for "Transferred Intent Battery" of a staff member. This Program offers three hours of middle school classes and three hours of high school classes daily during the 186-day expulsion that this particular offense mandates. It is staffed by one teacher.

## **Chisholm Life Skills Center**

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The Jesse Chisholm Elementary School opened in January of 1949. The school was originally called the Southeast Elementary School; however, early in the 1949-50 school year, the Board of Education chose the name of Jesse Chisholm in honor of an intrepid pioneer and trail blazer.

Edwin Friesen was the part-time principal, and three teachers taught the 77 children enrolled. Two rooms were vacant, but only briefly, since the building boom for the area struck at the close of the school year. By September 1949, when the enrollment climbed to 203 and the teaching staff doubled, a double shift program was in effect.

In 1950, seven classrooms were added to accommodate the enrollment of 423 and the staff of ten teachers with a full-time principal. A peak enrollment of 538 was reached in September 1952, but the opening of Schweiter School reduced the enrollment to 515 by the end of the term. Although a large section of the district was divided in 1953 between South Hillside and Levy, the enrollment remained over 400, and portables were added in 1954 and 1955. From 1956 to 1969, the enrollment decreased steadily, and one portable was removed in 1960 and the other in 1965.

September 1969 found Chisholm at an all-time low of 220 students in the district. However, implementation of the Follow Through program in kindergarten and first grade increased the enrollment to 261 through the transportation of children into the district. The Follow Through program was removed from the building sometime in the 1970s. The ESL program was moved to Chisholm in the 1980s and then moved from Chisholm in the early 1990s. The Headstart program was moved to Chisholm at the start of the 1992-93 school year and remained through the 1994-95 school year.

Enrollment continued to drop at Chisholm and predicted enrollment for the 1988-89 school year was approximately 124. This was in part due to sixth grade being moved to middle school. There was a strong possibility that Chisholm would be closed due to declining enrollment. At one time there were plans for the merging of Chisholm, Griffith and South Hillside schools with a new building to be built on the South Hillside site.

Chisholm shared a principal with White school during the 1987-88 school year.

At the beginning of the 1989-90 school year, Linwood and Chisholm were merged into one school with two campuses and one principal. Kindergarten through second grade classes were housed at the Chisholm campus with students in grades three through five housed at the Linwood campus.

At the April 8, 1996 meeting, the Board of Education approved the closing of Chisholm School at the end of the 1995-96 school year, with students being sent to Linwood. The following year was the first year for the special day school known as Chisholm Life Skills Center.

Since that first year of operation, Chisholm has benefited from two building projects. The first occurred after the school sustained considerable damage from a tornado in May of 1999. Then, on October 14 of 2004, the school district dedicated

the building additions resulting from the passage of the 2002 Bond Issue. These additions included four new classrooms and a multipurpose room that serves as a lunchroom and a gym.

## Dunbar Learning Center

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In 1999, Wichita Public Schools and the Wichita Urban League, Inc., now Urban League of Kansas, Inc., established a partnership to form the Wichita Urban League Learning Center. The program consisted of one classroom, 19 computers, and one administrative office located at the Urban League Community Learning Center at 2418 E. 9th Street, Wichita, KS 67214. At this time, the program was facilitated by the coordinator and 2 instructional facilitators who assisted students in English, Advanced Math, Science and Social Studies. However, due to an astonishingly high student enrollment, which generates FTE which allow the program to be self-sustaining, we quickly expanded to include two classrooms, a secretary, and a counselor. The program provides individuals 17 years old and older who were not enrolled in high school the opportunity to complete a high school diploma.

In 2003, the Urban League expanded the building and the Wichita Urban League Learning Center moved to the wing of the 9th street facility.

In 2009, USD 259 had a 21 million dollar budget cut so the district decided to move the learning center to Dunbar school to save money. The learning center name changed from Wichita Urban League Learning Center to Dunbar Learning Center. USD 259 still has a partnership with the Urban League, but on a different level.

The Dunbar Learning Center is available to all students of different cultures and backgrounds. We strive to help each individual to be successful in and outside of the classroom and to have learning tools and experience to apply to life situations.

## Greiffenstein Alternative Elementary

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William Greiffenstein School opened January 13, 1950 as the 39th elementary school in the city's educational system. It was built to relieve the crowded conditions that existed at Gardiner Elementary School.

In the fall of 1949 several buses picked up pupils and teachers from the future Greiffenstein attendance area and transported them to and from the old Harry Street School until the present Greiffenstein building was completed.

The original building cost \$75,000, had seven rooms and housed 177 students at its opening. Construction of the building required seven months, during which time the school was temporarily designated as the South Elementary School. Six teachers conducted classes in kindergarten through the sixth grade.

The first major addition was completed in 1951, bringing the total number of classrooms to 14. In 1953 several portables were constructed on the school site, and in 1956 an additional portable unit was added. During the summer of 1967 a wall between the library and an adjacent room was removed, doubling the floor space of the library.

The enrollment had a gradual decline from a high of 565 in 1953 to less than 200.

William Greiffenstein, a native of Ober-Ramstadt, Germany, the man after whom the school was named, was one of the most prominent and influential founders of early Wichita. He arrived in Wichita in 1869 at the invitation of James R. Mead, opened

an Indian trading post, and helped in founding the new town. In 1870 he plotted 80 acres of land in Wichita which was the first plotted land on record in this city. Greiffenstein worked very hard to make Wichita grow. He did so much for the town that he is generally referred to as the "Father of Wichita." Greiffenstein is also well known as one of the planners responsible for the 81-foot width of Douglas Avenue. It is alleged by some historians to be the result of Greiffenstein's belief that the street should be wide enough for use as a drill field. He was the fourth mayor of Wichita and served in this capacity for eight years. In 1877-78 he represented this district in the State Legislature.

Due to low enrollment, Greiffenstein was closed as a regular attendance center at the close of the 1985-86 year. The special ed library and the library for the blind were housed at Greiffenstein between 1987-92. In August 1992 Greiffenstein was opened as an elementary special education center for behavioral disordered pupils.

### Levy Special Education Center

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Levy Special Education Center was named in honor of Morris W. Levy who was born in France in 1844. He came to Wichita in 1872. Mr. Levy lived in Wichita for 33 years and was active in civic affairs. He served on the Wichita School Board for 12 years and was president 11 terms. Mr. Levy founded the Wichita Library Association, was president of the Kansas Bankers Association, secretary of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Directors of the Board of Trade, and treasurer of the Stock Association.

The original Morris W. Levy Elementary School was located at 2001 East Stafford. It was constructed in 1952 and opened in September of that year with an enrollment of 320 students. Through the years, the student population varied from a maximum of 500 pupils to a low of 200 in 1970-71.

At the close of the 1970-71 school year, the use of Levy as an elementary attendance center was discontinued. However, the facility continued to be utilized for instruction of handicapped pupils in grades kindergarten through 12. In accordance with its new usage, the school was renamed the Levy Special Education Center.

The Levy Special Education Center located at 400 N. Woodchuck was built in 1980 at a cost of \$3.8 million to house the severely multiply disabled population for the school district. The school was first occupied on August 24, 1981. The school also serves some Trainable Mentally Retarded and Autistic students. Half-day programs are provided at Levy for three- and four-year-olds, and a full day program is provided for five- through 21-year-olds.

The building was constructed with unique architectural features to meet the needs of severely handicapped students. Some of these features include wider door openings, heated floors in the classrooms, handrails in all hallways, handicapped accessible sinks and drinking fountains, and curtains instead of doors on the bathroom stalls.

In 2001, an addition was added to the existing building to accommodate a growing population of students. The building now includes 22 classrooms with observation/office areas between each classroom. Each classroom also has a restroom. We have a gym for Adapted Physical Education and a hydro-therapy pool which has adjustable depths from deck level to a maximum depth of 4 1/2 feet. The pool water is 91 degrees and the air temperature is 93 which creates a therapeutic effect for students. Levy also has a home-living area with adaptive cooking and laundry facilities, a music room, library, vocational training center, two health rooms and a cafeteria with a kitchen.

## Little Early Childhood Education Center

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Little Elementary School opened in the fall of 1954, named for William Cutter Little. A former Illinois school teacher, Mr. Little became Sedgwick County Superintendent of Public Instruction the year after he came to Wichita in 1870. He was one of the founders of Fairmount College, now Wichita State University. In addition to his many contributions as an educator, Mr. Little also was a lawyer and a banker. He was an influential person in bringing industry to Wichita and in determining city government. He is remembered as the man who introduced alfalfa as a farm crop to this portion of the Arkansas River Valley.

The William C. Little Elementary School was built in 1953 and opened in September 1954. In the first year of operation, about 360 pupils from kindergarten through sixth grade were enrolled. Since enrollment consisted of about 75 percent black and 25 percent white, pupils and the faculty were integrated. Little was called Wichita's completely integrated school.

As a shift in residential patterns continued, the percentage of white children enrolled dropped rather quickly. In 1954-55, less than 10 percent of the pupils were white, and by the next year the enrollment was nearly 100 percent black.

As the community changed, the school population increased, making the size of the school plant inadequate. Portable classrooms were added when additional classroom space was needed. The highest official enrollment was 681 on September 15, 1964. By 1969, there were 12 classrooms inside the main building and 12 portable classrooms on the school site.

There have been few additions and alterations to the original building. However, in September 1964, a teacher's lounge was built onto the northeast corner of the building; and in September 1967, a wall was removed to expand the library.

The staff of Little School changed from 50 percent black and 50 percent white when the school opened, to an all black staff when the enrollment consisted of essentially all black pupils. For the 1967-68 school year, an effort was made to integrate the staff with about 15 percent white teachers assigned. In 1968-69, the ratio was again 50 percent black and 50 percent white.

In 1971, in accordance with the integration plan adopted by the Board of Education, the school was discontinued as an elementary attendance center. Since that time the school has been utilized as the Head Start center for the north central area of the city and is known as the Little Early Childhood Education Center. Beginning in 1989, Little also housed Even Start.

Beginning the 1995-96 school year, Little housed BOE prekindergarten, Title I prekindergarten, Early Childhood Special Education for three- and four-year-old children, and Even Start.

## Midtown Early Childhood Education Center

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The Midtown Community Resource Center opened its doors for business on June 13, 1999 as a not for profit organization, hoping to make a worthwhile contribution to the community.

Housed in a 14,000 square foot former Safeway store at 1150 N. Broadway, the center serves as a resource and education center for the ethnically diverse Midtown area.

MCRC offers an array of educational opportunities and services: GED training; Spanish language classes; English as a Second Language (ESL) classes; adult education classes and seminars; Latchkey programs; prekindergarten classes; a summer day camp; nutrition classes; employment counseling; used clothing sales; and medical screenings. In addition, MCRC has rented out space to the Kansas Nutrition Network, the Women's Initiative Network, Catholic Charities, and USD259.

## Sowers Alternative High School

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Sowers Alternative High School is housed in the former Sowers Elementary School, named for Fred A. Sowers. Wichita's first newspaper, *The Vidette*, was started in April 1870 by Mr. Sowers. In 1873, Mr. Sowers started the *Beacon*, the first daily newspaper in the Arkansas Valley. He served on the City Council for two terms and on the Board of Education for three terms.

Sowers Elementary School opened September 8, 1953, with 307 pupils and 10 teachers. Forsblom and Parks were the architects for the 12 room structure. The school was not connected to the city gas or water lines. The children waded the creeks in wet weather unless the parents brought them and braved the ruts left by the construction company along the east bank of the canal. There were times of high water when the Joyland train was used to transport the children across Dry Creek.

Two footbridges were constructed in the spring of 1954 to span the creeks. For two years no street, as such, came to Sowers. In 1954, a footbridge was constructed across the canal, and in 1956, Wassall was paved and a bridge constructed across Dry Creek. There was much discussion and some dissension between the Board of Education and the City Commission about the placement of the school and the consequent need for the construction of the street and bridge. The newspapers took up the story and dubbed Sowers the "Helicopter School."

The land for the Sowers site was acquired during the time when the Board of Education could buy no land outside the actual boundaries of the city. By necessity, available undeveloped land was often acquired that did not represent the ideal site. For beauty, the Sowers site is ideal; a city park of eight to ten acres is adjacent to the school site.

In the fall of 1966, highway construction, the paving of the canal, and a \$60,000 footbridge across the canal and highway were started. For two years school and construction went on side by side.

A peak enrollment of 452 was reached in 1958-59. Declining enrollment closed Sowers as an elementary school at the end of the 1989-90 school year.

The building was reopened as an alternative high school in the fall of 1990 with Fred Leichtenfeldt as principal. The school maintained a special day school program for special education students and a program for regular education students who had significant behavioral problems at their base school. Regular education was discontinued in the spring of 1994 leaving the school to serve only special education students.

## Wells Alternative Middle School

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On January 23, 1956, the Wichita Board of Education approved drawings and specifications presented by Robert S. Mayberry, architect, for a new elementary school to be constructed at 3601 South Pattie. The new building was needed as new houses were rapidly being built in the area south of Wilson School. Construction began on February 16, 1956, and the building was completed on September 18, 1956.

The Board of Education chose to name the new building in honor of Bert C. Wells who was City Manager of Wichita from 1927 until 1939. Mr. Wells was born in Sheridan, Indiana on July 19, 1880, of Quaker heritage and came to Wichita as a young man to attend Friends University. After graduating from Friends in 1903, he received a scholarship to attend Haverford College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1904. He married Sara Shoemaker the same year and taught in Oakwood

## Excerpts from “A History of Wichita Public Schools Buildings”

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School in New York and Corinth Academy in Virginia before returning to Wichita where he taught in the high school two years. Mr. Wells held public positions in several Kansas cities before becoming City Manager of Wichita. He was known by friends as ever the same - a quiet, self-contained, industrious and honest man.

When Wells Elementary School was organized, the enrollment was expected to rapidly increase. However, due to a recession in building shortly after, some of the land was not developed. Thus, to increase the enrollment of Wells in 1964 a change in the boundary was made to allow additional children to attend Wells from the Wilson district, and in 1968 children were bused from Mueller Elementary School to Wells.

Wells was closed as an elementary school at the close of the 1985-86 school year due to declining enrollment and students sent to the newly renovated Anderson School, formerly Wilson Elementary. In 1986-87, Wells was designated an alternative special education center for students in grades 1-12. Beginning the 1990-91 school year, high school students were moved to Sowers Alternative High School, and Wells became an alternative school for both regular and special education students in grades 1-8. In 1994, Wells became an alternative special education center for middle school students, and students in grades 1-5 were moved to Greiffenstein Special Education Center.

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*“A History of Wichita Public School Buildings” – compiled in 1978 by Nina Davis, updated in 1996 by Sara Lomax. Copyright 1997 USD259. If you wish to review the full printed publication, contact the district’s Marketing and Communications Office at (316) 973-4515. Basic updates were provided for each active school site following completion of 2000 Bond Issue improvements.*

