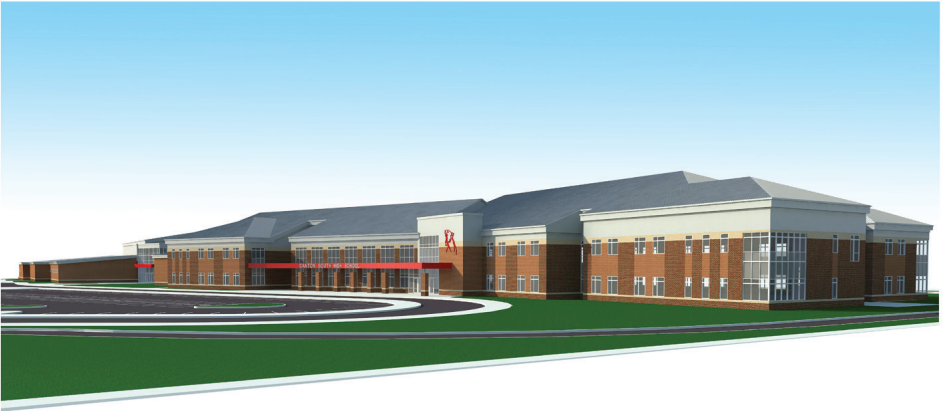


Canton Local History

1824

2017



Home of the WILDCATS!



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Ruth Gerber (1935), Irene Jarrell (1933), Hazel Jarrell (1932), Steve Milano

Photo memories of historical significance have been randomly placed throughout the book.

Dedication

It is with deep appreciation that we dedicate this brief history of Canton Local Schools to our community! Your support has made it possible for us to open a new high school designed to continue Canton Local's tradition of excellence.

Thank you for your faithful support of our schools and for always holding high expectations that we will prepare all students to be productive, fulfilled, compassionate citizens.

“Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives - choice, not chance, determines your destiny.”

-Aristotle

Superintendent

Stephen P. Milano

Treasurer

Jason Schatzel

Board of Education:

Scott Hamilton, President

Rick Knight, Vice President

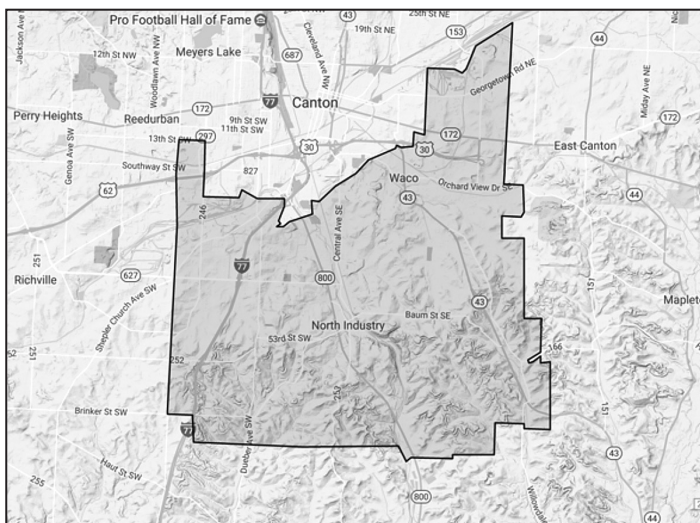
Dave Brothers, Member

Chris Cole, Member

Christine Scarpino, Member

Canton Local School District

The Canton Local School District, home of the Wildcats, is located in southern Stark County. Approximately 2,100 students are enrolled in three schools: H. R. Walker Elementary School (Preschool-Grade 4), Faircrest Memorial Middle School (Grades 5-8), and Canton South High School (Grades 9-12), which also is the hub for South Stark Career Academy. Below are the boundaries for the Canton Local School District.



Canton Local has held a long tradition of pride and excellence in academics, the arts and athletics. The district provides rich experiences for every student so that they develop their own talents and graduate ready to become innovators, community leaders and active, compassionate citizens. Students are engaged in developing the skills they will need to help them be leaders in the 21st Century economy. Our students also excel beyond the classroom. Students have a wide variety of options to participate in arts, athletics and extracurricular/club activities and service learning. It is a combination of these experiences that will equip our students for successful futures whether they go into the military, a trade, or higher education.

Canton Local Superintendent and Central Office Administrative Staff serve as the hub of the district providing key leadership and a wide variety of services and supports. They provide coordination of key goal areas:

- Staff Recruitment, Retention and Development
- Community, Stakeholder and Staff Communication
- Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Staff and Student Safety and Well-being
- Financial Stewardship, Purchasing and Accountability
- Technology Integration and Infrastructure
- Management of the district's real property and facilities
- Compliance with state and federal laws
- Community and parent engagement
- Implementing and monitoring Board approved strategic plan and policies.

In addition, the central office leaders are responsible to coordinate purchasing, selection of curriculum materials, technology planning, strategic planning, public information, student transportation, student performance standards, and student assessments, to name just a few.

Central Office staff may be located in various offices across the district but all work together as a part of the District Leadership Team. They include: the Superintendent, Treasurer, Directors of Curriculum, Special Services, Technology, Career Tech, Gifted Education, Transportation and Facilities, Multi-County, Food Services and Information Management along with our key Administrative Secretaries and Fiscal staff.

The Canton Local Board of Education members are elected by the community and represent them in their important hiring and policy-making decisions. The Board of Education meets monthly with the Superintendent and Treasurer to consider recommendations regarding employment, budgets, contracts and play a critical role in the development and monitoring of the district fiscal and academic accountability measures. The community is always invited to attend the board meetings which are open to the public. Current board members are listed on the inside cover of this booklet and past members are listed on page 6.

Canton Local (Township) School Board Members (1928-2017):

Orin Bair	1928-1929	Clyde Brechbuhler	1958-1965
Harry Domer	1928-1931	Walter Young	1958-1979
C.W. Sherer	1928-1929	Joseph Fortune	1960-1963
Paul Krall	1928-1931	William Wright	1960-1978
A.E. Niesz	1928-1929	Elden Taylor	1962-1986
L.K. Miller	1930-1933	Leroy Slutz	1964-1984
Clarence Miller	1930-1937	Charles Frank	1964-1965
Loyal Snyder	1930-1933	Virgil Steinmetz	1966-1983
Nelson Yoder	1932-1935	Ray Eibel	1966-1977
Walter Cramer	1932-1935	James King	1979-1984
Howard Taylor	1934-1949	Larry Wright	1984-1995
Louis Bowman	1935-1945	Gary Carter	1986-1993
Charles Sheffer	1936-1939	Pat Bodnar	1986-1990
Fred Brechbuhler	1936-1943	Don Duerr	1988-1999
C.A. Lichtenwalter	1938-1941	Kim Hockensmith	1990-1991
V.E. Burriss	1940-1942	Mary Lou Bowman	1990-1993
Harvey Stokes	1942-1945	Harold Brumby	1991-1998
Lloyd Bechtel	1943-1947	Ted Wenger	1994-1998
Robert E. Slutz	1944-1947	Craig Strasser	1994-2013
Joseph Kitzmiller	1946-1949	James King	1996-1999
Fred Brechbuhler	1946-1948	Dave Brothers	1998-present
Howard Shew	1948-1951	Scott Hamilton	1998-present
Bud Syler	1948-1959	John Martin	2000-2014
Lloyd Bechtel	1949-1949	Harold Brumby	2000-2008
Charles Jolliff	1950-1961	Donna Ring	2008-2009
Paul Barth	1950-1957	John Mariol	2009-2014
Howard Mottice	1950-1953	Rick Knight	2013-present
Werner Thompson	1952-1955	Christine Scarpino	2014-present
Roy Walter	1954-1956	Dianne Williams	2014-2016
Donald Bechtel	1957-1957	Chris Cole	2016-present
Ray Graham	1957-1963		



Canton Local Superintendents:

1957-1964	Dr. Harold R. Walker
1964-1986	William Hayden
1986	Dr. Rosemary Johnson
1987	Dr. Harold R. Walker
1988-1992	Dr. Norman Poynter
1993-2002	Dr. David Bowman
2002-2010	Teresa Purses
2010-2015	Kim Redmond
2015-2017	Stephen Milano

Canton Local Treasurers:

Donna Neisel also served as Secretary to the Superintendent

A. Michael Bichsel

Jason Schatzel

Curriculum Leaders:

John Rohrbaugh, Dan Dowling, Joe Briese, Barb Baltz, Teresa Purses, Cheryl Schoffman, Janet Sommers, Kim Redmond, Mallory Floyd, Tricia Coutts-Everett

Canton Local Superintendent Secretary:

Mary Jean Bowe

Candace Vandeborne

Central Office Support:

Ann Bleau, Wendy Busnick, Donna Furney, Susie Hein, Sarah Hochadel, Jan Lyon, June McCarthy, Kathy McConnell, Michelle Reichard, Shirley Singer, Diana Storch, Mary Lou Cush Szink, Chris Vitale, Kathy Wanner, Marge Wingerter, Bonnie Woods



Dr. Harold Walker, Sam Purses, Sr., William Hayden, Ed Welker, Harold Brumby

1923

North Industry School

1923-1984

1984



There was a feeling of excitement in the air as village residents prepared for the day's activities on November 23, 1923. Today was the day Sam Stokes would lay the cornerstone for a new school. The officers and members of Thomas Jefferson Unit #100 of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics were especially proud. Their names, along with two daily newspapers, were included in the tube contained within the cornerstone. Thus, they were assured of a special niche in history. Such were the events surrounding the construction of North Industry High School. Like her sister school, the Mapleton Road High School in Waco, North Industry would serve as the high school for students in Canton Township for eight years. With the opening of Canton Township High School in 1931-32, North Industry then became an elementary building.

The original building consisted of eleven classrooms situated on 3.1 acres in downtown North Industry. It also had a large auditorium with a stage, so arranged that it could be used as an auditorium or gymnasium. Concrete steps were on one side, and on this tier were placed "opera seats" so it could serve as an amphitheater when basketball games or gymnastic exhibitions took place. Only one major construction project had altered the building. In 1952, an addition provided for eight more classrooms and a gymnasium/auditorium. Even before the addition of the gymnasium, Country Western "Big Name Bands" performed in the auditorium. In the

early 50's people came from all over, packing the gymnasium to hear those Country Western sounds. Various remodeling activities were completed throughout the years to meet North Industry's needs.

Music has always been a co-curricular emphasis in our schools. Prior to the opening of the high school, decked out in sparkling white uniforms, the pre-1931 North Industry High School Band could be seen performing at school and community functions alike.

Many can remember leaving our classrooms and walking in orderly lines for music and other classes that were held in the Portables. These were two buildings on the south side of the lot that were used when North Industry was bursting at the seams with students. Although they were called portable buildings, it is doubtful that anyone ever saw them move.

In addition to physical changes over the years, North Industry Elementary also had changes in the student body. Originally a high school, North Industry later housed grades 1-8 when Canton Township High School was opened in 1931. Two wings were added to the high school in 1937 causing North Industry to have grades 1-6. Fluctuating population numbers at the high school resulted in North Industry adding the seventh graders and then the eighth graders through the 1950's. With the opening of Walker Junior High School in 1962, North Industry became a facility for grades K-6. Years later, after a re-evaluation of the district needs, the school became a K-5 building.

Known as the Raiders, many spirited and hard-fought basketball games took place in both the original and new gyms. Dating back to the late 1920's, the highlight of the season was always the rivalry game with Waco. Both boys' and girls' teams battled it out for Township and school bragging rights, dating back to the late 1920's. Most alumni of the blue and white North Industry teams would tell you that the Raiders traditionally came out on top. In addition, the gym was always the hub of excitement for the students. Who can forget the Hal Harrison assemblies, the Halloween costume parades, or the Christmas programs presented to packed houses?

As the population of the entire school district fluctuated, so did student enrollment change at North Industry. In 1981-82, approximately 260 students were being educated by 12 teachers, tutors, aides, itinerant personnel and specialized instructors. Classrooms no longer needed for full-time use had been transformed into a music room, art room, and even reading labs. The building, staff, programs, and students at North Industry had come a long way since that November day in 1923.

Nine principals served North Industry School since its opening:

1923-31	Mr. Lyman Hert
1931-33	Mr. William Seese
1933-46	Mr. Amos McDannel
1946-59	Mr. Dwight Flohr
1959-62	Mr. William Hayden
1962-64	Mr. Dan Dowling
1964-66	Mr. Walter Linhart
1966-73	Mr. John Weber
1973-84 when the building closed	Mr. Paul Neiss

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**In Memory of
Lou Mikunda**



1923

1984

Waco School

1923-1984



Waco High School, formerly known as Mapleton Road High School, was originally built with 12 classrooms on 17th Street Southeast. It was a three-story brick building that had an auditorium for sporting events. From 1926-1931, each graduating class had less than 12 students. Waco/Mapleton School operated as a high school until Canton Township School was built in 1931.

Four small country-type schools, Fairview School, Pleasant View, Brenner School and Sponseller School, were the predecessors of Mapleton Road High School, later known as Waco School.

The surrounding area of Waco School was mainly agricultural but became more industrialized in later years.

Fred O. Paul became the principal of Waco School for the 1931-32 school year. At that time, Waco was a grades 1-8 building. He was the principal until his retirement in 1966. Walter H. Linhart became the principal until the building closed in 1984.

Expanding enrollment necessitated two major additions to Waco Elementary. In 1952, eight classrooms were added, as well as a larger auditorium, an office area, and the old auditorium was made into a cafeteria. In 1955, five additional rooms were added, all for the expanded elementary classes.

Waco School continued as a grades 1-8 structure until Walker Junior High opened in 1962. Grades 7 and 8 went to Walker, and Waco became a grades 1-6 building. It continued as such until the kindergarten program was added in 1973. Grade 6 then moved to Walker, and Waco became a K-5 building with two special education classes.

Waco Elementary closed at the end of the 1983-84 school year and was auctioned off the following year.

Principals at Waco: Mr. Fred Paul and Mr. Walt Linhart

Secretaries at Waco: Eileen Hayden (1950-55) and Sybil Welch (1956-1984)



Trump School

1927-1984



Trump Elementary School was located on a 10.74 acre site at 511 Trump Avenue SE and served not only as the well spring of education for the students in that area, but also became the hub of activities of this rural industrial community. Trump Elementary mascot was the HAWKS.

The building, well maintained throughout its years, began in 1927 with four classrooms. In 1952, this original structure was modified to an eight-room structure with cafeteria dining room and kitchen facilities, as well as an auditorium. Four more classrooms were added in 1953.

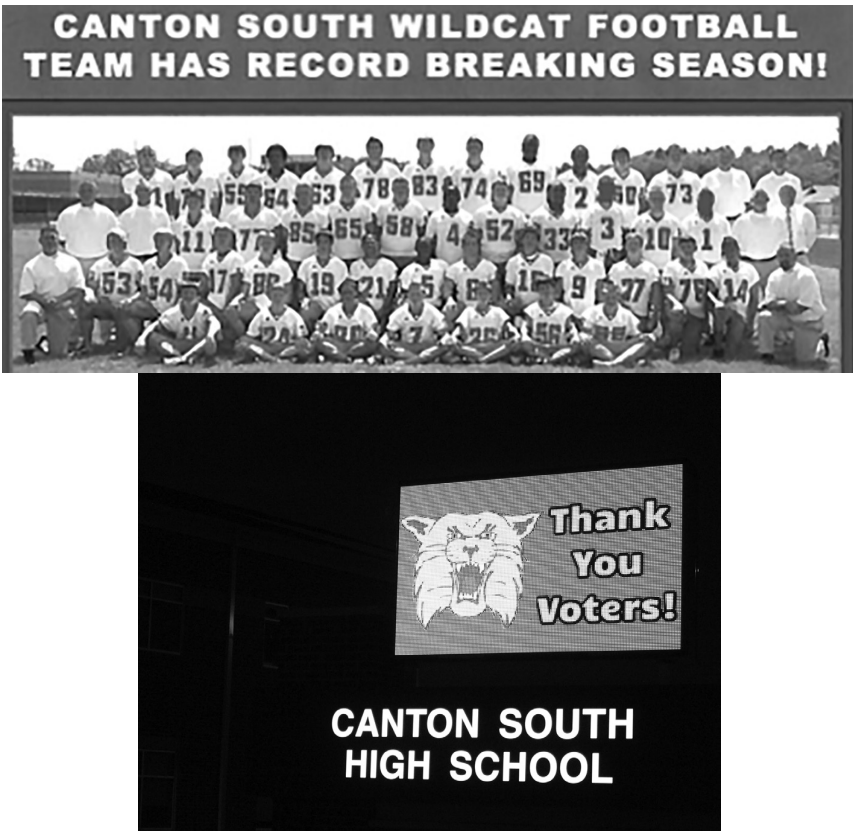
In 1961, the Arthur Halter Annex to Trump Elementary School was dedicated. This addition consisted of two classrooms with storage rooms, a library room, cafeteria storage including a walk-in cooler, custodial storage, work room and rest rooms. Adequate storage space for school supplies was provided with this renovation.

To further the best education opportunities for students, a central library with space for reading tables and tutoring stations was added in 1974, replacing the previous library which only housed the books and offered no area for reading or audio visual facilities.

Trump Elementary principals were devoted to the responsibility of providing excellent educational opportunities for the students they served.

1927-33	Mr. Amos McDannel
1933-38	Mr. Lyman Hert
1938-43	Mr. Robert Slutz
1943-60	Mr. Arthur Halter
1960-68	Mr. Edward Palmer
1968-77	Mr. Robert Graham
1977-80	Mr. Ed Voshall
1980-84	Dr. Rosemary Johnson
1984 half-time teacher served until the building closed.....	Mr. Merril McConnell

Trump Elementary Secretary: Virginia Hexamer, Helen Decker, and Ret Bigler until the school closed.



1932

2017

Canton South High School

1932-2017



Prior to the building of Canton South High School, two high schools were erected in Canton Township in 1923: Mapleton Road High School in Waco and North Industry High School in the North Industry area. They continued as separate high schools for eight years.

"Tonight we launch – where shall we anchor?"-Class of 1932 motto

As a result of consolidation in 1931-32, each of those high schools became an elementary building, and a new structure of 18 rooms was built on the site of the present high school and was named Canton Township High School, housing students in grades 9-12. The mascot was a Wildcat and the school colors were red and grey. Two wings were added to the building in 1937 and housed grades 7-12; these wings were funded by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works.

In 1938, the first yearbook, *The Moderian*, was published. Defined as "The brilliance of an educational enterprise which was to take unto itself a wealth of prominence and loyalty worthy of any forward moving community, *The Moderian* celebrated the accomplishments of the modern man and sold for \$3.00. The school newspaper, *The Cantonian*, followed in 1939 and presented the students' outlook on the events of the year.

“We came; we studied; we conquered.” -Class of 1940 motto

The 1940's brought many changes to Canton Township High School. By the end of 1943, nearly 350 graduates had served in WWII; bonds, stamps, and scrap metal drives replaced magazine sales; the first football game was played under the lights in 1944; the first football queen was elected in 1945; in 1948, the name of the newspaper was changed to the *Wildcat Review*; and, more importantly, the school was now known as Canton South High School.

“Success is reward for labor.” -Class of 1945 motto

As enrollment increased over the years, additions were made to the building. In 1956, the following were added: a cafeteria, home economics lab, business education, instrumental and vocal music, industrial arts, gymnasium, as well as extensive remodeling to the existing structure. In 1964, a new football stadium and track field was used for the first time. In the decade from 1955-65, the size of the graduating classes doubled. By the 1965-66 school year, 1,372 students were registered in grades 9-12.

“We live in the present, we dream of the future, but we learn eternal truths from the past.” -Class of 1965 motto

In the 1960's, the concept for Confluent Education was explored. It was designed to help students with poor attendance, below level achievement, inappropriate behavior in school and community, and the potential of dropping out of high school. In one year alone, 18 students earned their diplomas from CSHS because of this new created program. Mr. George Fulton, assistant principal, provided leadership and vision for developing new programs as challenges were discovered. Under the umbrella of Confluent Education, programs implemented were PIM, PACE, Search, Teen Talk, CLESP, VRRC, VA and PEP. Canton South received statewide and national recognition for its Confluent Programs.

“A problem is merely an opportunity in disguise.” -Class of 1967 motto

In 1962, the Canton Local Scholarship Foundation was formed for the purpose of providing loans, and later scholarships, to students from CSHS who wished to continue their education and were in need of financial assistance. In 1967, the name of the Foundation was changed to the current name of Canton South Advanced Education Foundation, as reported in the school newspaper, in the 60's called the *C.S. Journal*.

“Look not at where we stand but in what direction we are moving.” -Class of 1993 motto

In 1971, a new science annex was opened. It included six science labs, three biology, two chemistry, and one physics room as well as a science library and a large group instruction area. A vocational education facility opened in 1976, offering Auto Body, Auto Maintenance, Welding, Cosmetology, and Building Maintenance. Also added at this time to the main building were a cafeteria and kitchen, as well as additional vocational education classrooms. Two additional programs, Food Service and Diversified Health Occupations, were added in the 1977-78 school year. During the 1979-80 school year, disaster was averted when a member of the community noticed a fire in the school. Several days of school were lost, and the staff volunteered to help with the cleanup, but it could have been much worse.

“We take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere.” -Class of 2001 motto

In 2001, the Academic Booster Club was formed to build student self-esteem, recognize student achievement and improvement and support high school students at all academic levels. This organization, along with the National Honor Society, recognizes students for their academic achievements. In 2006, the South Stark Career Academy was created to provide Canton South students with the best in career tech opportunities.

“There are many roads we have crossed, many miles we have climbed, and so many dreams yet to realize.” -Class of 2012 motto

In 2013 voters passed a bond issue for \$36.6 million to build a new Canton South High School and make minor renovations to Walker Elementary and Faircrest Middle School. The new school will open in the fall of 2017.

***"In our hands we hold today, in our dreams we hold tomorrow,
our hearts we hold forever."*** -Class of 2011 motto

Over the years, Canton South High School students have received a quality education from an outstanding teaching staff. Courses of study available to all students have been emphasized both college and career readiness with an emphasis on community involvement. Students have been well prepared for professional careers, business positions and industrial careers directly upon graduation. In 2011, Canton South created a national media splash when Robert Irvine brought his Restaurant Impossible Food Network to the Wildcat Café. A firm commitment to the beliefs of the nation has also been exhibited as many Canton South graduates served honorably not only in WWII but also in Korea, Viet Nam, The Gulf War, The Iraqi War, in all branches of the military.

***"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.
If you can dream it, you can become it."*** -Class of 1995 motto

Throughout the years there have been numerous student extra-curricular activities at Canton South. From 1932 until the present there have always been clubs and activities that represented bands, choirs, spirit-pep-student boosters, radio-television-computer-mass media, the arts, sports, and recognition of academic excellence.

***"From Friday night stars to academic scholars, Canton
South's claim to fame has been through the young pupils
who call our humble high school home."*** -2013 Moderian



Principals at Canton South:

Mr. Lyman Hert, 1931-33
Mr. William Seese, 1933-34
Mr. Lawrence Drennen, 1934-36
Mr. Dwight Flohr 1938-40
Mr. Sylvester (Sly) A. Stein, 1936-37, 41-51
Mr. M.E. McLaughlin 1951-57
Mr. Joe Hafer, 1957-61
Mr. Sam Leles, 1961-64
Mr. Dan Dowling, 1964-74

Mr. Howard Jolliff, 1974-93
Ms. Lorenda Tiscornia, 1993-95
Mr. Joe Briese, 1995-00
Mr. Rick Knight, 2000-05;
Mr. Ira Wentworth, 2005-07
Mrs. Nicki Howard, 2007-08
Mr. Tom Bratten, 2008-09
Mr. Todd Osborn, 2009-14
Mr. Jeff Moore, 2014-present

Guidance Counselors included:

George Fulton, Martha Cook, Norma Oeffinger, Noel Graybill, Gene Hendon, Roland Peters, Ray Altier, Dave Redd, Mary Lynne Offredo, Judy Greene, Barb Tscholl, Diane Swink, Krista Hussar, Nicole Boyd and Josh Kern.

Secretaries to the Principals:

Gertrude Porter, Ruby Yohe, Barb Wenger, Terri Hagan, Barb Sexton, Pat Haren, Anita Herron, Barb Cush, Carole Hall, Sandy Highman, Sherry Laughlin and Sue Friday.

Guidance Office Secretaries:

Hattie Warstler, Barb Cush, Barb Weaver, Margie Groves, Lori Suarez, Ret Bigler, and Leann Chastain.

Attendance Office Secretaries:

Gloria Mozie, Barb Cush, Anita Herron, Terri Collinsworth.

***"Together, we have experienced life.
Separately, we will pursue our dreams.
Forever, our memories will remain."*** -Class of 2017 motto



Dan Dowling, Harold Walker and Bill Hayden



Prairie College Elementary School

1935-2013



Prairie College Elementary School originated from the first school building plans that began in 1824 as Franklin School built on a square acre purchased from John Niesz on old Richville Road that is now Faircrest Street. The school site was moved in 1835 to Prairie College due to a need of a more central location. This log building was believed to have burned, thus, a second log building with a rail fence was erected on the site in 1856. It was at that time the name of the school was changed. The land to the south and west resembled a prairie so the name was then changed to Prairie College School. Schools at that time were often referred to as colleges. In 1870, a one-room brick building was erected about 200 feet east of the present building. Again, this little school was destroyed by fire in 1910, but a new brick one-room school with basement and coal furnace was built later that year. During the construction of the building, Godfrey Muler owned a small cottage on Prairie College Road which he offered as a school until the new building was completed.

Originally the main entrance to the school was along Prairie College Road. If you were to enter the building through that entrance, you could

see the cornerstone beside the door, it read: Prairie College, District No. 6, Canton Township, 1910.

The first teacher was Charles Whitmire. He taught from 1911 to 1914. There were 45 pupils in his class. By 1929, the enrollment had increased to 70 pupils with Herbert Engle as the teacher. After a meeting of the teacher and patrons, the School Board agreed to add two more rooms and hire another teacher.

In 1935, \$14,000 was spent to remodel and add to the building. The original one-room was torn down and two rooms were added. A basement was put under the entire building. This made a four-classroom school with a basement auditorium, which was also used as a lunchroom.

In 1951, an annex was added to Prairie College School for the cost of \$225,000. This included an auditorium/gymnasium with lockers and showers, a stage, and a cafeteria with an all-electric kitchen. A secretary was added to the staff and, for the first time, the principal was not expected to teach a class.

During the time Mr. Mohr was at Prairie College, the enrollment continued to increase. The basement was divided into classrooms and later a wooden portable building was erected to the west of the school.

The community continued to grow and once again all rooms were overcrowded. In 1951, an annex was added to Prairie College. This new addition contained four classrooms, auditorium with locker rooms, cafeteria, teacher's lounge and two private offices for the principal and secretary.

In 1953, a library, four classrooms, and some kitchen storage space was added. Another addition was erected in 1956 which included five classrooms, boiler room, and two lavatories, which were connected with the rest of the building, and Prairie College became a u-shaped structure with a playground in the center. In 1973, a modern large-sized room was added to house the kindergarten pupils.

When you entered the school, the wooden figures Woody, Woodette, and Splinter (the dog) greeted you and they would be dressed in different costumes for the activities and holidays during the year. These wooden figures were introduced by Mr. Willis in 1994.

Prairie College had a very active PTA/PTO and was blessed with many wonderful parents that helped with fundraisers. At Christmas time, there was a tree that was placed in the hallway and students decorated it by

placing hats and mittens for students who needed them. The PTA/PTO purchased and maintained the playground equipment.

The many activities that were enjoyed by students and staff included:

Academics: Balloon Launch for Right to Read Week, Storybook Character dress days, Family Math nights, Martha Holden Jennings awards, Math Tournament, Mini Park across from playground, and Outdoor Camp for fifth graders.

Community: In 1939, the PTA took over the lunch program and cooked on a family-size stove in the basement and the sixth-grade girls washed the dishes. Each student was assured of receiving a hot lunch.

Dare Officer thru Sheriff's Dept., Desert Storm Tree and recognition, Yellow ribbons to remember and support the troops, Junior Achievement, Pack 47 Scouts sponsored by Prairie College School, and Grandparents Day.

Special Events: Gong show by the staff which students loved, Talent Shows, Memory books, Santa's Secret Shop, Upsidedown Christmas tree in office (on the ceiling), Woody, Woodette, and Splinter, Birthday cupcakes, and end-of-the-year picnic and carnival with goodies.

Sports: Prairie College was known as the Prairie College Eagles and the team colors were scarlet and gold. Basketball was played with the other four elementary schools in the district. There was also a Track and Field Day, intramural basketball and volleyball.

Due to district restructuring in 2006, Prairie College Elementary became a Kindergarten and Preschool building, and in 2008, became a Preschool building. The building closed in 2010.

Our Board of Education had to make a very difficult decision when it was decided to abate/demolish Prairie College Elementary. On January 7, 2014, the property at Prairie College School was auctioned by Kiko Auctioneers and sold to All Nations Tabernacle Church. This was a sad day for the Prairie College community that loved this building, and as the years have passed, those memories have become treasures. Prairie College had come a long way from a little log schoolhouse completed for \$45.49 in cash and donated help.

Principals at Prairie College Elementary School:

1934-37	Mr. Herbert Engle
1937-39	Mr. Paul Wyle
1939-52	Mr. Robert Mohr
1952-55	Mr. Ralph Regula
1955-70	Mr. Robert Mohr
1970-87	Mr. Ronald Molnar
1987-91	Mr. Robert Graham
1991-93	Mr. Ronald Molnar
1993-96	Mr. Patrick Willis
1996-06	Mrs. Shelley Doerschuk
2006-08	Mrs. DaNita Berry

Seven secretaries served Prairie College Elementary School:

Donna Neisel, June McCarthy, Elaine Neighbor, Joanne Shondrick, Mary Risaliti, Shirley Singer, and Kelly Walters.

Prairie College School Epilogue

“You have served your community well and nourished the minds and hearts of the students who walked your floors. You caused people to come together to work hand in hand for the betterment of an education that relished from beyond your doors. For those of us who were a part of your history, we can say that we are proud.”

-Prairie College History Committee

Much of this information was compiled and written by Beatrice Vance, former Prairie College teacher.



Amos McDannel Elementary School

1955-2010



Amos McDannel School was constructed in 1955 and more than 650 people toured the new building at the first Open House on November 14, 1955. The school was named in honor of Mr. Amos McDannel, who taught in Canton Township for 48 years, and passed away in 1954, one year prior to the building construction. At the dedication service on January 22, 1958, Mr. Amos McDannel was honored as a man who was loyal to his fellow man and God, exemplified by his concern and compassion for children. Interestingly, one of his first students, Charles Firestone, served as the architect for construction.

The new \$500,000.00 elementary school opened on September 7, 1955. The 16 classroom building was on a 14 acre site on 38th Street SE. Mr. Harold R. Walker was named principal of the new school, which had an enrollment of approximately 325 students. The building was designed to hold up to 500 students.

Mrs. Ida McDannel, wife of Amos McDannel, continued to inspire and serve students and educators in the district after the construction of the school. She had near perfect attendance for visiting on days of special PTA and holiday programs at the school. Children's eyes filled with

love and respect for the woman who cared so much for them. Pictures of Amos and Ida McDannel hung in the main hallway of the school as a reminder of their dedication and love to the children who attended Amos McDannel School. Throughout the years, the showcase in the main hallway was dedicated to Amos and Ida, to help the students understand their significance and importance to the history of the building.

School colors selected for Amos McDannel were scarlet and white. Following a vigorous student campaign, Setters was chosen as the name for the school teams and the Irish Setter became the mascot. In later years, the mascot was changed to the Wildcat.

Nine principals served Amos McDannel School in the 55 years of its operation:

1955-56	Mr. Harold Walker
1956-59	Mr. Howard Netzley
1959-60	Mr. William Kannam
1960-61	Mr. Sam Leles
1961-67	Mr. Dwain Sheffer
1967-93	Mr. Paul Davidson
1993-02	Mr. Michael Capitena
2002-08	Mrs. Carol Hepler Young
2008-10	Mrs. DaNita Berry

Only three secretaries served the school throughout the tenure of Amos McDannel School: Janice Plaskett, Doris Baker, and Donna Brothers.

Visitors often commented about the welcoming atmosphere of the building. The open lobby window area was always decorated for the season displaying back to school, Christmas, or spring motifs. Bright and cheery bulletin boards were maintained by the volunteers of the PTA who graciously gave their time and talents to showcase the talents of students. The building was always well maintained with an inviting atmosphere.

The PTA, an integral part of the school, originated on October 13, 1955, with 110 people in attendance. Dinners and fundraisers were held to help purchase playground equipment, books, and equipment needed for the school. Throughout the years, many dedicated individuals served on the PTA to offer students opportunities to expand their learning as well as to improve the playground and classrooms. In 1999, parents,

staff, and local businesses raised \$46,700 to build a much needed addition to the school library. Excitement was on the faces of students as they enjoyed the extra room that was provided to them with the expansion. The PTA always made Teacher Appreciation Week special for the staff. Appreciation for their work was recognized in multiple ways during this week including lunches and treats for every person who worked at the school.

Special memories include service projects such as the Fifth Grade Service Club, the Giving Tree Project, and food drives to help area families. Musical programs were a gift to the community as students shared their talents as singers, dancers, and musicians. The love of music and the arts was instilled in students by both teachers and support staff. Other student activities were the Secret Santa Shop, Accelerated Reading and shopping at the AR cart. The bookstore was a student lead activity where third graders sold school supplies on designated mornings. Another popular event was third-grade Prime Time Friday Night where students spent the night at the school reading, doing activities, enjoying food, and spending the night in sleeping bags on the floor in the gymnasium. Favorite last day of school events were the outdoor carnival and track and field day.

Fifth grade students always had the opportunity to play intramural basketball in the winter months. Teams were formed and tournaments were held to determine which team would be the champion for the year. Another favorite activity for fifth graders added in later years was a three day, two night, Outdoor Education Camp. Fifth graders also had opportunity to participate on the Fifth Grade Math Team, which competed against other fifth grade students in the county.

Students at Amos McDannel were taught to recognize and understand the importance of good character. Students were honored for their efforts by the staff, Lions Club "Good Program" and Canton South Rotary "Student of the Year." Amos students were held to high educational expectations. Throughout the years, staff was dedicated to ensure students acquired skills to become successful adults.

Parents and grandparents were recognized as being important people in the lives of students. They were invited to school to celebrate student birthdays and Grandparents Day. Parents were honored with Mother/Child and Father/Child breakfasts served by staff.

Throughout the years, enrollment decreased in Canton Local. In efforts to cut costs for the school district, reorganization efforts were made. Starting with the 2006 school year, Amos McDannel became a grades 1 and 2 building. Students in Canton Local in grades 3-5 attended Harold R. Walker School. From 2008 until the school closed, Amos McDannel Elementary was a kindergarten and grade one building. At the end of the 2010 school year, the doors to Amos McDannel School were closed. All elementary students in the district were then assigned to attend Harold R. Walker Elementary in Canton Local. The Amos McDannel building was sold to the Canton Township Fire Department and now serves as the Canton Township Community Center.



Amos and Ida McDannel



1962

2017

Harold R. Walker School

1962-2017



Harold R. Walker Junior High School, the district's first junior high, opened in 1962. This beautiful educational facility is located on a 30 acre site in the southeast section of the school district. The facility was built to have thirty-two teaching stations, including facilities for art, home economics, industrial arts, vocal and instrumental music, a large group instructional room, gymnasium and a beautiful library. A modern cafetorium was not overlooked and is included at Harold R. Walker Junior High.

Harold R. Walker Junior High School was named in honor of Dr. Harold R. Walker, Superintendent of the Canton Local Schools for 1957 to 1964. The school was named after a survey was conducted among residents of Canton Local for a name for the new junior high school. The board members unanimously voted to name the school after Dr. Walker. Dr. Walker was born in 1927 and was given the name Harold "Pete" Walker. He graduated from Louisville High School and ultimately graduated from Ohio State University with his doctorate in 1967. His career followed from teacher to guidance counselor to superintendent and then on to college professor and volunteer at Harold R. Walker

Elementary School where he listened to the children read. In his retirement, he continues to be a consult to our school district. His integrity, his spirit of enthusiasm, his devotion and dedication to youth and education are guides for us all to emulate.

Harold R. Walker Junior High served 7th and 8th grade students from 1962 to 1970. After the opening of Faircrest Memorial Junior High in 1970, Walker educated seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students on the east side of the district. After the closing of Waco, Trump, and North Industry Elementary Schools at the end of the 1984-1985 school year, Walker opened in the fall of 1985 as a K-5 building. After various reorganizations throughout the years, Walker currently houses all the Pre-K to grade 4 students in the district.

The school colors for Harold R. Walker Junior High were red and white, and the mascot was a Warrior. A totem pole was erected at the end of the sidewalk leading to the playground. It was present for many years and was a treasured landmark at Walker. The totem pole was created by art students under the direction of charismatic teacher, Mr. Tom Haversfield. Standing more than 15 feet tall, former students have a totem pole memory of a wide wing-span and colorful painting. While a junior high, the sports teams were very good, even at times going undefeated in football. The big game was always scrimmaging Faircrest. No matter the sport, it was always a heated contest between the players and members of the staffs. The memories of the cafeteria food (baked chicken and pizza and everything homemade!) made meals a special treat.

After becoming a K-5 elementary, the Harold R. Walker Elementary staff was active in securing several grants that led to student achievement awards. The Ohio Department of Education funded a multiple year Effective Schools grant and Venture Capital grant, with the goal of improving school culture and teaching and learning opportunities for teachers and students. A hard working staff matched to great students received the HIGH FLYING SCHOOL award from the Washington D.C. based Education Trust in 2002. This award is given to schools with more than 50% of students at or below poverty level, and with more than 75% of the students passing the state mandated tests. The Ohio Department of Education also twice recognized Harold R. Walker Elementary as a "School of Promise." Harold R. Walker Elementary staff and students have a reputation of doing their best and being their best!

Harold R. Walker Elementary is well known throughout the community for its Senior Citizens Luncheons. Grandparents come to the school several times throughout the year to enjoy lunch and complete an activity with their grandchildren. Other yearly activities include the famous Turkey Trot before Thanksgiving break where students complete a short race. A partnership between Stark Parks and Walker has brought about a Family Night at Sippo Lake the last few years. Families meet up with the staff of Walker at Sippo Lake to complete several fun activities and enjoy the great outdoors. A Family Literacy Night is held each year to show the importance of literacy through fun activities. Kindergarten students get excited each year when baby chicks are hatched after studying life cycles. Every student gets the opportunity to invite a guest to join them for a meal during the monthly birthday celebration. Students also love the opportunity to play on the inflatables a couple times each year to celebrate their great effort in school. Our Parent Teacher Organization (PAWS) sponsors a Father/Daughter Dance for girls and Mom & Me event for boys in grades 3 and 4 as well as a Santa Secret Shop and Book Fair for all students. They also raise funds to purchase playground and other equipment as well as support field trips for each grade. The staff at Walker Elementary have always shown great care for the students and expected them to do their best to become kind and productive citizens with good character.

The principals of Harold R. Walker School have changed several times throughout the years, but all have chosen to uphold the good character portrayed by Dr. Harold R. Walker.

1962-1964	Jr. High	Grades 7, 8	Mr. William Hayden
1964-1970	Jr. High	Grades 7, 8	Mr. Edward Welker
1970-1977	Jr. High	Grades 7, 8, 9	Mr. Edward Welker
1977-1979	Jr. High	Grades 7, 8, 9	Mr. Robert Graham
1979-1985	Middle School	Grades 6, 7	Mr. Robert Graham
1985-1993	Elementary	Grades K-5	Mr. Walt Linhart
1993-2008	Elementary	Grades 3,4,5	Mrs. Gay Welker
2008-2010	Elementary	Grades 2,3,4	Mr. Chris Noll
2010-2011	Elementary	Grades K-4	Mr. Chris Noll & Mrs. DaNita Berry
2011-2014	Elementary	Grades K-4	Mr. Chris Noll
2014-2017	Elementary	Grades Pre-K-4	Mr. Frank Kruger

Secretaries at Walker have been Joanne McConnell, Wanda Roshong, Barb Cush, Carole Hall, Ret Bigler, Sherry Laughlin, Kelly Walters, and Donna Brothers.

Faircrest Memorial Jr High School

1970-2017



Faircrest Memorial Junior High School opened its doors to students on Monday, February 2, 1970. Approximately 240 freshmen students were shuttled A.M. and P.M. from Canton South and Walker Junior High to help alleviate the overcrowded condition at both schools.

The 1.89 million-dollar structure was named Faircrest because of its location on Faircrest Street, in the heart of the Canton South community. The Memorial portion of the school name was originally named to honor and pay tribute to the five men and women from the Canton South area who gave their lives in the Vietnam Conflict. Until that conflict ended, a total of nine were memorialized and are now celebrated in a showcase in the main entrance of the school.

- **Army Specialist 4 William R. Masters**, Canton, OH - killed in action September, 1966
- **Marine P.F.C. Frank R. Sills**, 51st Street SW - killed in action February 23, 1967
- **Army P.F.C. Fred D. Penland**, Dueber Avenue SW - killed in action August 28, 1968

- **Army Nurse - 1st Lt. Sharon Ann Lane**, 46th Street SW, North Industry - killed in action June 8, 1969 (The only women of the United States forces to lose her life in Vietnam)
- **Army Sgt. Billy J. Greavu** - Lincoln Street SE - killed in action March 10, 1970
- **Army Spec. 4 Larry L. Rogers**, Canton - died April 27, 1971.
- **Army P.F.C. David L. Brooks** - Canton - killed in action May 24, 1972
- **Navy Lt. Leonard J. Schoeppner**, Canton - missing in action
- **Marine P.F.C. Benjamin F. Stoffer II** - Canton - killed in action on February 26, 1969

Faircrest is a two-story brick structure with 23 academic rooms, 19 other classrooms, gymnasium, cafeteria, locker rooms and other facilities which are adaptable to a variety of purposes. A wide variety of class offerings were available to students that included business education, a sewing lab, a foods lab, a metal shop, and a wood shop. The cost of the building was \$1,669,367.78 and the building was indexed for between 900 and 1,000 students. The land site is approximately 35 acres and provides a blacktopped playground and parking area, football field, track and baseball diamond. The building is equipped with air conditioning, which was atypical for schools being built at the time. A swimming pool was considered in an original draft plan but was not acted upon.

The building was officially dedicated on Sunday, October 18, 1970, with many distinguished guests and members of the local community in attendance.

Faircrest then officially opened in the fall of 1970 as a grade 7, 8, and 9 Junior High School with a certificated staff of 35 full-time teachers. The non-certificated staff consisted of 12; one secretary, three custodians and eight cafeteria ladies. The opening student enrollment was 521 students. Mr. William Hayden was the superintendent, and Mr. Edward Palmer was the first principal of Faircrest Memorial Junior High School.

Prior to the school's opening, attending students were asked to select a school mascot and school colors for the new junior high. Faircrest Falcons and the school colors of blue and white received the majority of class and homeroom votes.

Over time, Faircrest staff, schedules, and course offerings have changed

to meet the needs of its students. Three major changes are significant to note. Faircrest Memorial Junior High School was renamed to Faircrest Memorial Middle School for students in grades 6, 7 and 8, for the 1985-86 school year after 15 successful years as a junior high. The school mascot and school colors changed for the 1998-99 school year to Faircrest Wildcats and red and grey. Due to elementary school consolidations, grade 5 students joined the Faircrest school family beginning in the 2008-09 school year.

Eventually middle school replaced junior high school, students in grade 7-8 attended, then with elementary restructuring, the building served grade 6-8 students. Presently, Faircrest Middle School is a grade 5-8 building.

Building principals and secretaries, who will be remembered for their leadership and teamwork, include:

Principals:

1970-85	Mr. Ed Palmer
1985-87	Mr. Robert Graham
1987-91	Mr. Ron Molnar
1991-10	Mr. Tim Welker
2010-present	Mrs. Gay Welker

Secretaries: Wanda Roshong, 1970 - 1985; Carole Hall, 1985 - 1995; Kathy Duerr, 1995 - 2011; Sherry Laughlin, 2011 - 2013; Melody Clark, 2013 - present.

Throughout the years, a constant has been an annual school celebration of Veterans Day. From 1970 to present, Faircrest has honored Veterans for their service and sacrifice and worked to instill a sense of appreciation and pride in Faircrest students. Beginning in 1991, and every year since, building-wide activities were planned and programs that involved student performances, displays, building and grounds upgrades, student artwork, breakfasts, lunches, and more, made our area Veterans part of our Faircrest family.



Canton Local Timeline

1824-present

April 19, 1824:

John Kile met with 15 district householders to choose a site to start a school and choose three trustees to promote education. Benjamin Richard, John Myers and John Neisz were elected. Franklin School, a hewed log house on stone foundation, was built on what is now Faircrest Street.

- 1845: The first school years were three months long with approximately 45 students.
- 1856: The school site was moved to Prairie College Street and the name was changed from Franklin to Prairie College School.
- 1870: A brick, one-room building was built east of the Prairie College School site. There was a raised platform for the teacher's desk with recitation benches nearby and a large coal stove in the center of the room. Three terms were taught. Female teachers were hired for the summer and fall terms when the small children and girls attended. During winter terms, older boys (up to 25 years old) attended so a male teacher was hired.
- 1902: There were 10 schools in the township: Prairie College, Fairview, Pleasant View, Brenner, Sponseller, SunnySide, Mapleton, Shocks and Pleasant Grove. Students attended school for nine years. Mr. Delap was the superintendent and went to all schools to teach music.
- 1910: The nine-year school system was replaced with an eight-year system. After eight grades, students desiring further education attended Central High School (later known as Canton McKinley.) The students walked to Belden and East Tuscarawas to take a street car/trolley to school.
- 1923: Mapleton High School was built and later became Waco School. Mapleton High School and North Industry operated under the same administration until Canton Township High School was built.

- 1926: The Canton Local Board of Education was established.
- 1927: Trump Elementary School opened with Mr. Amos McDannel as the first principal.
- 1931: As a result of district consolidation, Canton Township High School was built on 21 acres. North Industry High School and Waco became elementary buildings (1-8.)
- 1932: Busing began. Privately owned Canton Township Transit provided transportation for students for \$105 a day to the district.
- 1937-38: Two grades were added to Canton Township High School and a government lunch program was started. The next year elementary buildings began a lunch program which was later taken over by the parent organization.
- 1948: Canton Township High School became Canton South High School.
- 1951: A secretary was added to the Prairie College staff and, for the first time, the principal was not expected to teach a class.
- 1952-55: Additions were made to North Industry, Trump, Prairie College and Waco Schools.
- 1955: Amos McDannel was built and named in honor of Mr. Amos McDannel who taught in the district for 47 years. Dr. Harold R. Walker was the first principal.
- 1957: Dr. Harold R. Walker was named superintendent through 1964.
- 1958: An addition was added to Canton South High School including classrooms, cafeteria, offices and gymnasium.
- 1962: Harold R. Walker Junior High School was built and named in honor of Dr. Harold R. Walker.
- 1964: Mr. William Hayden was named superintendent through 1986. A new 5,000-seat football stadium, including a track, was added next to Canton South High School.
- 1969: Canton Local purchased the garage and buses located across from Waco Elementary School to become the first Canton Local Bus Garage with Tom McConnell as the first Transportation Director.

- 1970: Faircrest Memorial Junior High School was built with Mr. Edward Palmer as the first principal.
- 1972: A house on Cleveland Avenue was purchased to become Central Administration and Board of Education offices.
- 1973: A kindergarten program was added to all elementary schools. Voters approved construction of a vocational education facility south of Canton South High School.
- 1974: A large bus garage was built south of the football stadium. This became the first building in the county to house all buses indoor.
- 1975: An addition to Canton South High School included a new cafeteria, expanded industrial arts, art room, media center, English classrooms, football locker room, business office, education labs, diversified cooperative health occupation lab, food service facilities and cosmetology room. Mrs. Rosemary O'Conner was named the first district Vocational Director.
- 1977: The former administration building on Cleveland Avenue became the Special Services office. The Peace Lutheran Church was purchased by Canton Local to house kindergarten in the basement and administrative offices on the main level. The Vocational Annex opened.
- 1984: Trump, Waco and North Industry Schools were closed and subsequently sold in 1985.
- 1986: Dr. Rosemary Johnson was named superintendent through 1987. She was the first female superintendent of Canton Local and in Stark County.
- 1987: Dr. Harold Walker was superintendent for one year.
- 1988: Dr. Norman Poynter was superintendent through 1992.
- 1993: Dr. David Bowman was superintendent through 2001.
- 1999: A Veterans Courtyard was dedicated at Faircrest Memorial Middle School.
- 2000: The Academic Booster Club was formed to recognize student achievement and support high school students at all academic levels.

- 2002: Mrs. Teresa Purses was named superintendent through 2010. The Canton Local Digital Academy was formed for student on-line classes with Mr. Jay Moody as director.
- 2003: The Canton South stadium was renovated and dedicated as the Clyde B. Brechbuhler Stadium.
- 2007: The Multi County Attention Center became under the direction of Canton Local for education. Mr. Zettie Simms served as principal.
- 2008: Canton Local staff donated \$405,187 back to the district to save jobs and student programs. Both staff and administrators took concessions rather than reduction of staff.
- 2010: Mrs. Kim Redmond was named superintendent through 2015. Amos McDannel and Prairie College closed and students attended Harold R. Walker Elementary.
- 2014: The Hayden Career Technical Annex was dedicated in honor of former superintendent William Hayden. It housed auto body, auto tech, and welding. Prairie College School was razed and the land sold at auction.
- 2015: Mr. Stephen Milano was named superintendent.
- 2017: The new Canton South High School was dedicated on August 12. The Administration Center, formerly located on Ridge Avenue, was moved into the new building.



Walker Courtyard

Disclaimer

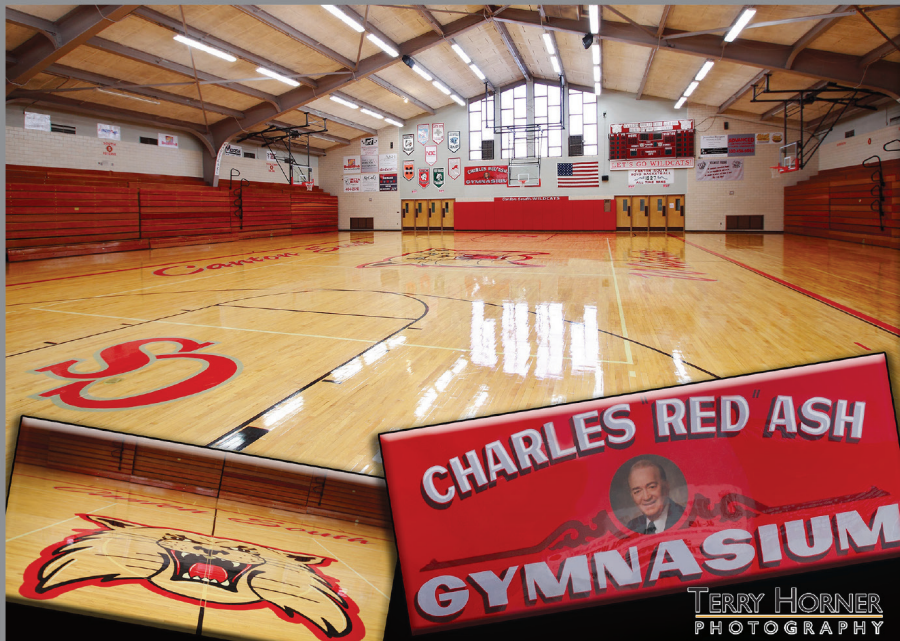
This Canton Local history book was written by current and former staff and community members who care deeply about Canton Local Schools and want to preserve its history. While the history committee has worked diligently to ensure the enclosed information is correct, based on published documentation and personal interviews with reliable sources, please contact Canton Local Administration Center if you find corrections. All of the building history and pictures, as well as other historical highlights, will soon be available on the Canton Local website.

Acknowledgement

Thank you to contributors, the Canton Local History Core Planning Team, Scott Hamilton, Dave and Donna Brothers, Wendy Busnick and Teresa Purses, most sincerely thank all of the volunteers who researched and authored the brief history of each building. Their passion and love for our community and their school shine through every word. A longer version of each building history will soon be on the website.

***“We’ve walked so far together,
We’ve grown so very close.
We are on the verge of tomorrow
Where we must go alone to find the dreams
we all dreamed of - together.”*** -Class of 1991 motto





Alma Mater

To Canton South High School

We pledge unfailing loyalty

We would make success our rule

And bring to you the victory

Though the way be hard and long

Yet in our hearts we'll sing this song

As we travel on our way

We'll always love thee red and gray!



Fight Song (original)

Fight on for Canton South

Boys of the red and the gray.

Don't let them get that ball

We've got to win this game today,

Rah Rah Rah

Fight on to victory

We'll cheer you as we go.

Our honor defend

So we'll fight to the end

For C.S. High

July 2017