# Gerald Gastineau

Gerald Gastineau graduated from Centerville High School in 1937. He received his Bachelor's degree from Southwest Missouri State College, his Master's degree from the University of Missouri, and did post-graduate work at the University of Colorado. Mr. Gastineau came to Herculaneum in the fall of 1964 as Superintendent of Schools for the Herculaneum R-5 District. As he led the District until his retirement seventeen years later he was most instrumental in molding the District and creating what we know today.

The biggest change occurred shortly after his arrival. He worked with the Board of Education in the reorganization of the Herculaneum and Pevely School Districts to form the Dunklin R-V School District. He then spear-headed the movement to obtain acreage for the site of our middle school. He worked with the Board of Education in the construction and dedication of Senn-Thomas Middle School. He was instrumental in getting the Missouri National Guard to clear the area now known as the Andy Runzi Baseball Field. The high school also acquired an all-weather rubberized track, and Pevely Elementary received a cafeteria, gymnasium, classrooms, office space, and a bus garage under Mr. Gastineau's guidance.

Not only did our District gain physical improvements with Mr. Gastineau, he was also known for his expertise in finance. His attention to budgets and enrollment, and his knowledge of stake laws governing the field of education proved invaluable when advising the Board of Education. His Board members appreciated him and made better decisions as he brought valuable knowledge to the table. His administration, faculty, and staff also

appreciated him. Mr. Gastineau's philosophy regarding education was that students come to school to learn and teachers are hired to teach. He made every effort to provide an environment for that to take place.

Gerald Gastineau served in education as a coach, teacher, and superintendent for a total of 40 years. He was a superintendent for 32 of those years; seventeen for a district created, as we know it today, while he was in charge—the Dunklin R-V School District.