

THIS IS

WESTHILL

HIGH SCHOOL



125 ROXBURY ROAD, STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06902

Thousands Of Hours Of Planning

Westhill High School, the newest addition to the Stamford Public Schools, is designed and planned for education in the seventies and beyond. With its flexible design and innovative program Westhill joins a proud tradition of quality education in Stamford.

The design and planning of Westhill took into account the vast amount of knowledge that must be learned by students today, and society's ever increasing desire for education. This forward looking school took thousands of man hours in research and planning. Back in 1966 under the direction of the Board of Education, a committee headed by Dr. Thomas Reardon, then Director of Secondary Education started to study education specifications for the new high school. Serving with him were Messers Stuart Hulbert, Thomas Kernan, Paul Kuzco Jr., Josiah Bridge and Mrs. Georgiana White. Dr. Felix McCormick of the Institute of Field Studies of Teachers College, Columbia University, served as the educational consultant. The committee visited schools in nearby Connecticut and New York communities.

While the Third High School was to be the keystone for an overall plan to eliminate overcrowding, it was felt it should not be just another school building. The new high school would allow the system to implement the 6-2-4 plan and relieve the student population at the junior high. Under this plan kindergarten through grade six would be in the elementary schools, grades seven and eight would remain at the junior high schools making them middle schools and grades nine through twelve would be housed at the senior high schools.

It became obvious to the committee that a new school had to be flexible enough to take into consideration the present methods of teaching and those of the future. As time progressed so too did the committee. Some 100 teachers and school officials were serving on 27 different committees by 1968. Their recommendations were compiled in a voluminous document titled "Educational Specifications, Third Senior High School, Stamford, Connecticut". Working with the committee and its recommendations, the architectural firm of Knappe and Johnson started to "create" the new school in the Spring of 1968.

Stamford's Third High School was to be built around the educational program, not as so many schools throughout the United States have been built in the past, where the program had to fit the school. The 2500 pupil school was to be built on a 28 acre site, at the corner of Roxbury and Long Ridge Roads, already owned by the City and known as the Finch Property.

The committee's report stated "a high school which opens in the 70's must reflect the new developments in the art of teaching". Working on that basis the committee pointed out that there had to be areas for independent study, seminar sessions for small group discussions, standard classrooms, plus large rooms. The school had to be a community oriented structure. With education being an on-going process throughout life the committee felt that the school had to be available to all citizens. Part of the recommendation was that it have a 1500 seat auditorium, and a 2500 seat gymnasium; in addition, it has a six lane swimming pool with a separate diving area.

The innovative part of the program called for more flexible scheduling, greater use of modern teaching devices, as well as small and large group instruction. The emphasis was going to be on more individual self-directed learning activities, expanded counseling and occupational guidance service. More technological courses in guidance were to be stressed and there was hope that the building could be used on evenings, weekends and vacation periods for students and adults in the community. The big innovation was the idea of a house plan. The house plan would break the 2500 pupils into two distinct schools within a school. Students in grades nine and ten would be in one house and grades eleven and twelve would be in another. This would give the students a sense of identity making them a part of a smaller unit in the whole school. Each house would have its own administrators and guidance counselors.

Final plans for the Third High School were approved on April 9, 1969. Estimated cost at the time was \$12,890,000 for the 333,500 square feet building. The capital projects budget for that year carried a sum of twelve and a half million dollars for the new high school. When bids were open on July 22, 1969 the low bid on the school was \$13,977,000, but with the addition for sewers, fire hydrants, traffic lights and movable furniture and equipment the total estimate came to \$14,895,000. E. & F. Construction Co., Bridgeport, Connecticut was the low bidder and was awarded the contract. Following a great deal of discussion with the City Administration and the various city boards the additional money was appropriated and ground breaking took place on November 24, 1969.

In less than two years of the formal ground breaking Westhill High School will be open to

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THE E & F CONSTRUCTION CO.

**The E. & F. Construction Co. Builders of the Westhill
High School is most proud to have been the General
Contractor for the high school. We extend our
congratulations to Knappe & Johnson, Architects for
their outstanding design, the City of Stamford for
their farsightedness in school requirements and our
subcontractors for their excellent cooperation.**

Our best wishes to the faculty and students.

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

Mr. Arthur Cascioli Named Principal

On January 4, 1971 Mr. Arthur Cascioli assumed his position as principal of the school. Westhill High School became the official name of the new school by Board of Education action on January 12, 1971. Expectation mounted as to the actual program that would be implemented at Westhill and what students would be attending.

While construction was proceeding according to schedule, Mr. Cascioli and Central Administration had three problems facing them, staffing, student population and supplies and equipment.

Mr. Cascioli is a native of Mount Kisco, New York and received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the State University of New York at Brockport and holds a Masters of Arts Degree from Columbia University. He's taken many courses in educational administration, sociology, guidance and liberal arts and is between his sixth and seventh year certificate. He began his teaching career in 1955 in Hicksville, New York and went to Farmington, Connecticut as an assistant high school principal. He came to Stamford from his position as acting principal at Farmington High School. Mr. Cascioli has won a citation from the University of Connecticut for his outstanding classroom work. He has had articles published in educational journals, and just recently had published an anthology of essays entitled *Pot Luck* based on current educational topics.

Mr. Cascioli seems to fit in very well with the "Educational Specifications for the Third High School". As an administrator he is interested and aware of many new innovative programs in education and is a firm believer in the concept that students should pursue learning at their own level. He believes that students should be prepared to deal with learning problems when they can no longer depend on the formalized school environment. Their education will continue long after they leave high school. The educational philosophy of the man, that of the committee that worked on the specifications, seems to blend very well into a building designed for individual student work.

The ordering of equipment and supplies for a 2500 pupil high is a staggering undertaking. Mr. Nicholas DeVita, Assistant Principal at Stamford High School had the knowledge and capability to handle this complicated task and was tapped by Board of Education to tackle the job. In addition to the fine work of many sub-contractors, a great deal of credit for the opening of Westhill on schedule can be attributed to Mr. DeVita's determination and hard work.

Mr. Cascioli and Mr. DeVita started their operations out of the Board of Education Building. At the end of June they moved their



Mr. Arthur Cascioli, Principal
Westhill High School

office to the Roxbury School where they continued their work until September first, when they moved into the new building.

At Roxbury School they occupied classrooms at the north end of the building. Even though they disrupted the normal summer routine at the school, a spirit of cooperation prevailed with everyone contributing what he could to help in the completion of Westhill. Since they did not have a direct phone line, Mrs. Dorothy S. Brand and Mrs. Donna Murray, secretaries at Roxbury, became the unofficial voices of Westhill. A great deal of their time during the summer was spent relaying phone messages to the Westhill offices.

Westhill will have a staff made up mainly of experienced teachers from within the Stamford Public Schools. Due to budget restrictions, the Board of Education felt it was necessary to limit the number of new people who could be hired for Westhill. Central Administration, the junior and senior high school principals all worked together to provide a satisfactory transition in staff.

They have accomplished what many people thought would be almost impossible. Out of a total professional staff of 117, only 34 teachers are new to the system, the remaining 83 coming from within. All of the administrators and department heads have been on the staff of the Stamford Public Schools.

The initial enrollment at Westhill will be about 1870 students in grades nine through eleven. With opening of the school, the 6-2-4 plan will now be fully implemented.

The first graduating class from Westhill will be in 1973. The Administration and Board of Education felt that the seniors at the other two schools should finish out their high school careers at their respective schools. Therefore there will not be a senior class at Westhill during the 1971-72 school year.

The attendance area for Westhill runs in a North-South direction. Starting at the New York State line and Greenwich Town line on the West, it runs South to the Connecticut Turnpike and along the Turnpike to approximately the middle of the City of Stamford. It then continues North in an uneven line to the New York border. Included in the attendance district is the Shippan Point area.

Behind The Scenes At Westhill High

Supporting the instructional personnel at Westhill is an experienced and dedicated secretarial staff of seven secretaries headed by Mrs. Madaline M. Kilmartin. Just as most of the teachers have been transferred from within the system so have the secretarial and custodial staffs.

A crew of eight custodians and two janitresses headed by Mr. Emil Kowalski will have the responsibility of maintaining the 333,000 square foot building.

Thousands of Hours

(Continued from Page One)

students. The efficient operation of E. & F. Construction and the cooperation of many fine sub-contractors have enabled the Board of Education to open this school to students within this short period of time. Construction at the Third High School continued at a record pace. Although there was much community interest in the construction and many discussions as to how the building would be sewered and supplied with heat and power, the general guidelines of the original committee have been followed.

*Our Company is extremely proud to have contracted the
mechanical portion of Westhill High School.*

*It has been a pleasure working with E & F Construction,
Knappe & Johnson and Panero Tizian Associates and
all others connected with this School.*

*We wish to congratulate all the City officials involved
and much success to the Citizens of Stamford.*

**BOUTON
AND COMPANY, INC.
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS**

41 Grove St., New Canaan, Connecticut 06840

The House Plan

Carrying out the original concept of "schools within a school" Westhill consists of two houses. Grades nine and ten in one house and eleven and twelve (twelve next year) in the other. Assisting Mr. Cascioli are two housemasters, Mr. Peter Donase and Mr. John Nolan.

Each house will have its own faculty, counselors and facilities. The major facilities such as the cafeteria, gymnasium, auditorium, vocational arts and swimming pool will be shared. It is possible that a ninth or tenth grade student taking an advanced subject might go to the other house in order to take the subject. As a general rule, the students will stay in their own house for all academic subjects.

With the approval of the Board of Education a student committee has named the two houses. Grades nine and ten will be in Thurston Raynor House and eleven and twelve in Daniel Finch House. Mr. Donase will be housemaster for Raynor House and Mr. Nolan Housemaster for Finch House.

Thurston Raynor was one of the first 28 citizens to settle in Stamford in 1641. He was the second owner of the first gristmill in town. Later he was appointed to the New Haven Court with senatorial honors. Mr. Raynor was also a Constable of Stamford in 1641 and in 1643 became the First Chief Judge of Stamford's first court.

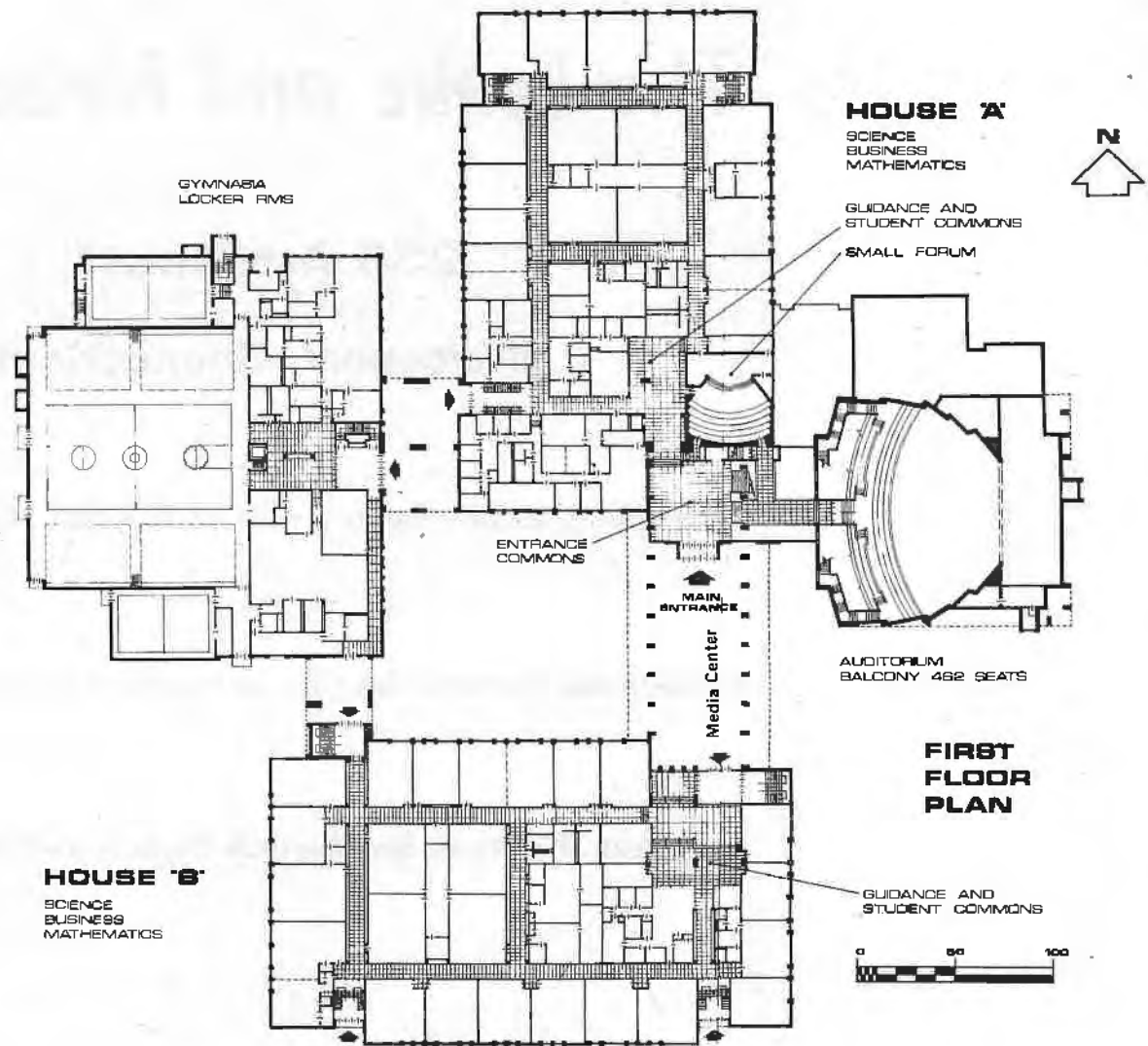
Daniel Finch was also an original Stamford settler and owned nine acres of property on which the school is presently located. He was an outstanding citizen and a strong booster of the original Stamford community.

Coordinating the educational program for the entire school will be nine department heads. They are Mr. Jerold Wanosky, Science; Mr.

Vincent Falcone, Social Studies; Mr. Vincenzo Martino, Foreign Language; Miss Elizabeth McDonald, Mathematics; Mr. Frank J. Silvestris, Physical Education; Mr. Leon Chmielewski, Arts; Mr. W. Raymond Randall, Music; Mr.

Rodger A. Gentile, Business and Mrs. Sandra R. Melzer, English.

Mrs. Nellie Spears will serve as an administrative assistant in charge of guidance services.



Floor plan for the first floor of Westhill showing both houses. House 'A' will be Finch House, House 'B' the Raynor House. The Media Center will be on the second floor.

Unscheduled Time

One of the innovations at Westhill will be the student use of unscheduled time. In the past it has usually been the pattern to schedule students into a study hall to fill their program and maintain a school schedule. At Westhill unscheduled time for students is deliberately planned and is an integral part of their program.

Although ninth and tenth grade students will be more traditionally organized, they will be gradually worked into the unscheduled time concept as they proceed with their studies and learn to properly use the learning facilities available.

Unscheduled time provides the student with an opportunity to become more independent and responsible for the time he spends in school. The goal of the administration and the faculty at Westhill is to have every student become an independent seeker of knowledge and remain so throughout his life.

To implement the use of unscheduled time each instructional department will have a resource center where students can go for either additional or remedial work, periodicals, or other media. Each department will have open labs with facilities and equipment designed to help the student seek more knowledge.

Using unscheduled time a student may have a conference with his teacher or join a small group session working on remedial or enrichment work. He can also audit a class, that is, sit in and cover work that he has missed or was not able to get earlier, or to gather ideas for a report, or hear a teacher's lecture on a certain subject. During the year special programs

including speakers, films and plays will be brought into the school for specific classes and many of these programs which will be of interest to other students will be available to students who have unscheduled time.

If a student wishes he may remain in the study hall, which will be held in the student commons of both houses. Here they may talk, or plan and work together and add an important dimension to their learning

experiences. Unassigned time can be used to schedule conferences with guidance counselors, college advisors, or vocational counselors.

It must be pointed out that when a student chooses an area of study during his unscheduled time he must stay there for the entire period. There is no traffic allowed in the corridor after the passing period has ended. No student is allowed in a classroom without specific approval of a faculty member.



Individual study carrels will be available in all departmental offices. Here students can do make up tests, remedial work or advanced study.

The Leake and Nelson Co.

**235 Ash Street
Bridgeport, Connecticut**

is proud to have been a part of Westhill High School.

Our congratulations to the City of Stamford on this fine School.

Best Wishes to the Westhill High School Students.

***Proudly Serving Stamford and Southwestern Connecticut
since 1919.***

CECIO BROS. INC.

General Excavating Contractors

**600 West Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, Connecticut**

**We are happy to have had a part in the construction of Westhill High School.
Congratulations to the City of Stamford and best wishes to the students of Westhill.**

Pasquale M. Cecio

Emil Cecio

Pasquale M. Cecio, Jr.

Michael J. Cecio

Paul A. Cecio

The Media Center

The outstanding feature of Westhill is the media center. It is the connecting link between the two houses and when finally completed in October will house a collection of 12,000 volumes. The staff of three teacher librarians and two professional aides is headed by Mr. Richard Racheter.

Students in the media center will be able to view motion and still pictures, mono and stereo audio tapes, slides, film strips, transparencies and other audio visual learning devices as well as the customary books found in libraries.

Located in the media center will be the audio visual center where in addition to the normal equipment students will have an opportunity to prepare their own materials such as slides, tapes and films.

It is felt that the media center will be the hub of activity in the use of unscheduled time. A great deal of the curriculum is built around the use of the media center by students.

Student Activities

Once the district lines were agreed to, Mr. Cascioli started meeting with those students who would be attending Westhill. From these meetings an active student group was formed.

The group has had over fifty meetings, some of them on Sundays, and has developed some 35 committees working on student oriented projects and student government. They have volunteered their time for various clerical projects to help in organizing their school.

Over 100 of them have agreed to act as aides for other students on the first few days of

school. In addition to researching names for the two houses they are still working on a name for the media center. The school colors of purple and gold have been chosen by a student vote.

Westhill will have a full athletic program this year as well as dramas, musicals, dances and all the other activities associated with a high school.



Shown with Mr. Cascioli are eleven students from the student activity committee. From left to right front row Patricia Williams, Lori Woody, Linda Corwin, Jilly Wallen and James Harris. Second row Mike Weiner, Kristy Ohms, Sam Sills, Harry Lirtzman, Mark Goodman and Debbie Reed.

PORT CHESTER ELECTRICAL COMPANY, INC.

**354 NORTH MAIN STREET
PORT CHESTER, NEW YORK**

salutes the City of Stamford on this fine new High School.

We are proud to have had a part in its construction.

**Our best wishes go to the students
who will be attending Westhill High School.**

A Community School

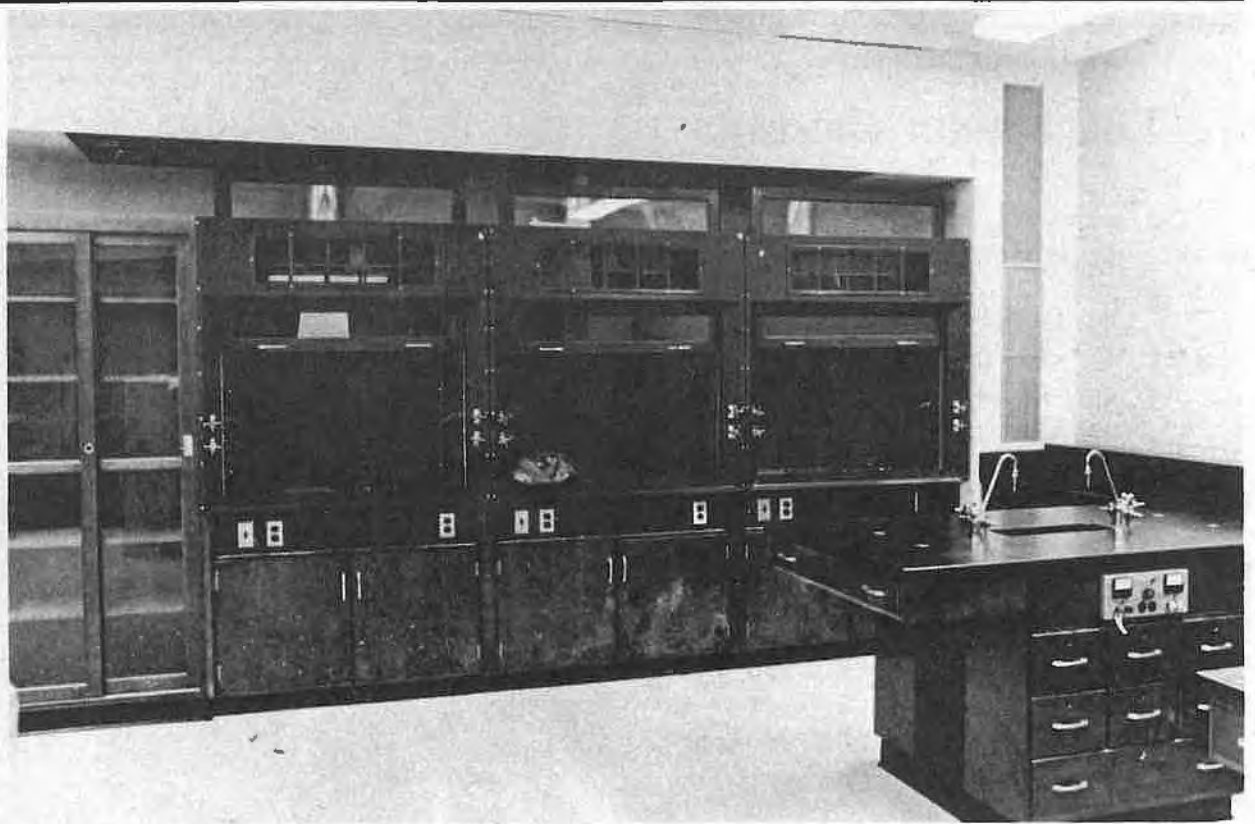
Westhill was designed with the idea that a school belongs to the community and should be used as much as possible. It is anticipated that the 1500 seat, air-conditioned and excellently designed auditorium will be the scene of many community activities.

The 2500 seat gymnasium is capable of housing many types of indoor sports activities. The swimming pool will no doubt become a valuable asset to the community.

Ultimately it is thought that the media center can be available to the public as well as students on evenings and weekends.

The uses for which Westhill can be utilized by the community is almost limitless. It will be several months before the building is completely operable and adequate parking space is available.

The City of Stamford and all of those who have had a hand in the planning, construction and operation of Westhill High School can be justly proud. In a few years graduates will be proudly saying my Alma Mater is Westhill High School.



Students will have the latest in Science equipment available for experiments (photo above). Shown in rear are fume hoods where noxious fumes are evacuated. In the foreground is a typical chemistry student station with varying electrical services. All science rooms are equipped with the latest safety equipment. In the photo below, flexibility is demonstrated, and at Westhill flexibility is the keyword — from scheduling to classrooms. Here with the use of movable partitions a classroom can be opened for large group instruction or closed to form an individual teaching station.



Prepared By

The Board of Education,
Stamford Public Schools,
Stamford, Connecticut

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It has been a privilege to have had an integral part in the construction of this fine High School.

Our best wishes go to the students who will be

attending Westhill over the years.

THE GENOVESE SUPPLY CO.

72 DAVENPORT STREET

STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT