

# Our History ~ W.A. Perry

William Augustus Perry Middle School opened its doors in the Fall of 1956. The name of the school was selected by the school patrons, and the first principal was Mr. C. W. Fields. The campus-styled school was built on terraces at three different levels. It consisted of three classroom buildings, a gymnasium, and an administration unit. Since that time, two additional classroom buildings were added and the media center has been completely renovated. As time passed, four classroom buildings along with the administrative building were updated with new roofs. In 2009, the campus was again renovated to include a new media center, lecture hall, fine arts department facilities, and upgraded technology in all classrooms. The Spring of 2016 brought the dedication and opening of the newly built State-of-the-Arts William Augustus Perry Middle School gymnasium.

In the 1980's, W.A. Perry became a middle school. During that same time the W.A. Perry Taskforce was formed. This opened the doors for other long-standing partnerships with community organizations such as Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. In 2008, the School of Aerospace was added. The school within a school provided core curriculum and extended learning opportunities for students who were interested in the science behind flight. In 2011, W.A. Perry transitioned into a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) focused school. In 2015, W.A. Perry expanded into a STEAM focused school. Students not only continue to have access to Aerospace but also to Science, Technology, Engineering Arts, and Math.

W.A. Perry has had a long history of great leadership with ten principals over 60 years. When Mr. Fields retired, Mr. Kenneth R. Law became principal. He retired in 1989. W.A. Perry has had the following leadership over the years:

Mr. David E. Thompson	1989-1993
Mrs. Daisy D. Stephens	1993-2000
Mr. Alfred Vanderpuije	2000-2005
Dorothy Byrd & Mr. Ceasar J. Leysath	2005
Mrs. Demetria Clemons	2005-2009
Mr. Ernest Holiday	2009-2011
Dr. Quantina T. Haggwood	2011-2014
Mr. Robert Smalls	2014-2016
Dr. Robin L. Coletrain	2016-Present

W.A. Perry continues to thrive on the resilient support of its many stakeholders.