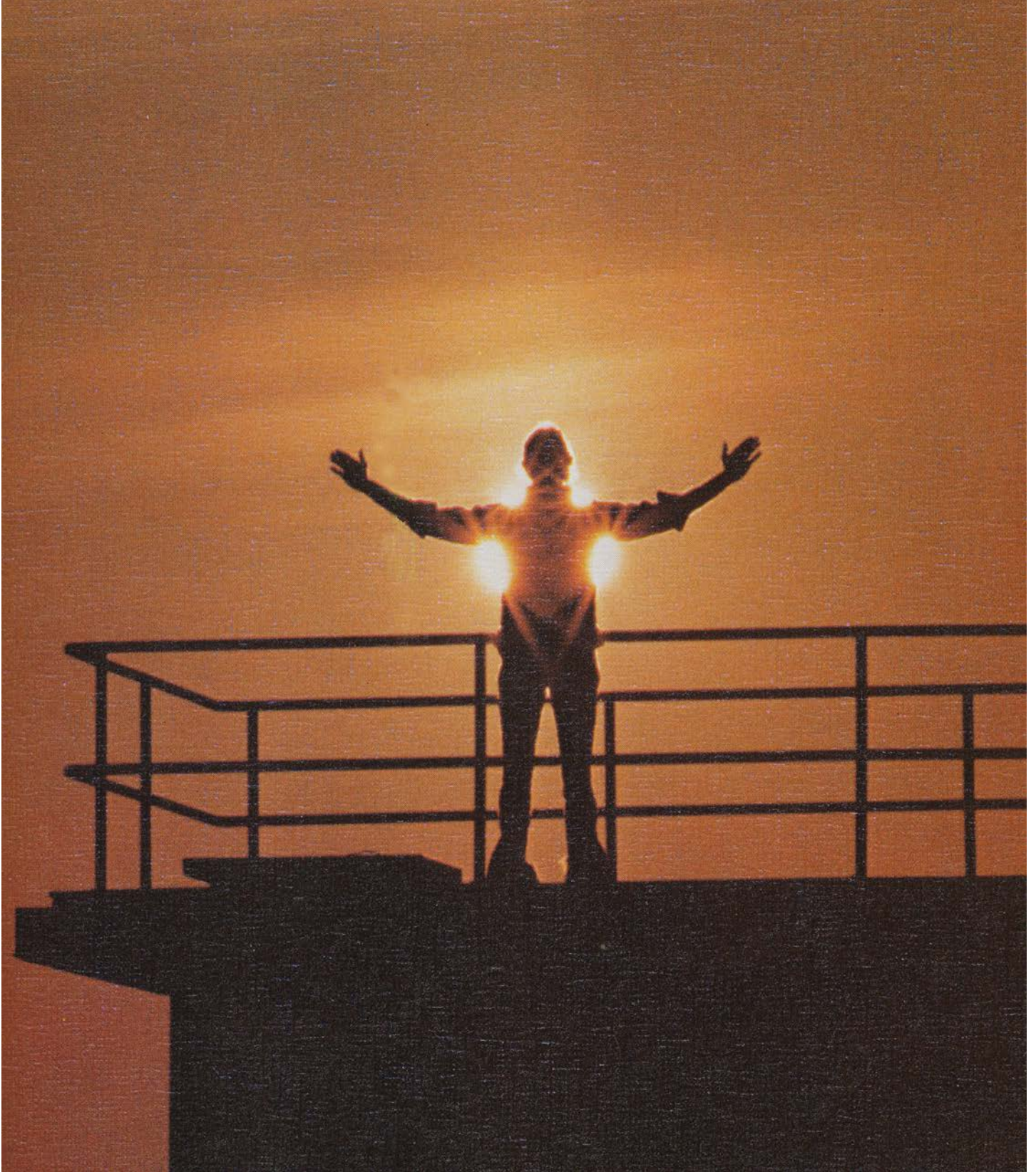


# HARRISON'S LEGACY

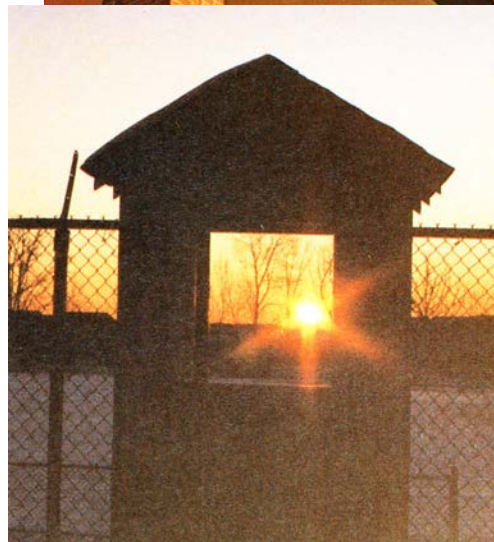
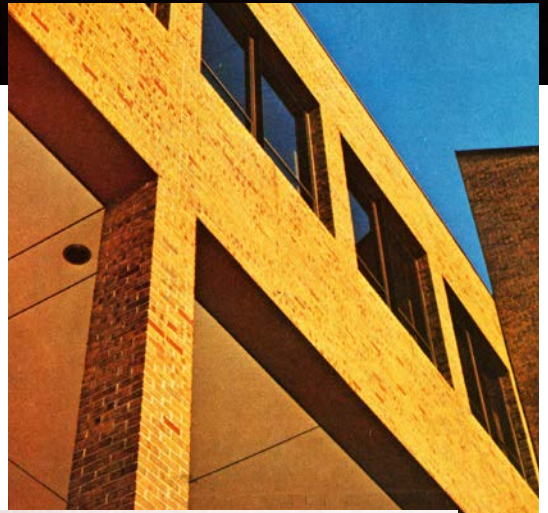


*Celebrating Harrison High School  
1970-2019*

# A Celebration of Harrison High School



*Love Letter to a School*



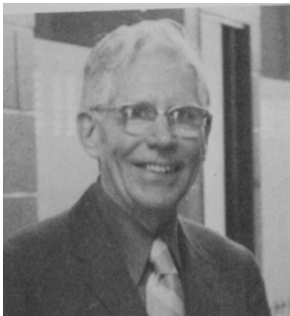
# Harrison's Beginnings

## Mission Statement

The mission of Harrison High School is to develop students to be caring and engaged learners who make informed decisions as they become internationally minded in their stewardship of the world and its resources.



## Gerald Harrison attends dedication of Harrison HS, March 28, 1971



Who was Gerald Harrison, and why was Harrison High School named for him? Mr. Harrison came to Farmington in 1946 when he became principal of Farmington Junior-Senior High School. In 1957, he became the Superintendent of Farmington Schools, which then had a population of 6,000 students. During his time in Farmington, he supervised the construction of North Farmington High School, Dunkel, East, and Power Junior High Schools, as well as several elementary schools. Mr. Harrison's final big plan was to build a third high school. The project was started in 1966. When Mr. Harrison retired in 1967, the school district had grown to 15,000 students. The new high school was under construction and, as a testimony to his fine work, it was named Harrison High School.

1971 RETROSPECT dedication

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Back cover	<i>Do You Remember?</i>

## Harrison's Legacy Committee Members

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Jim Anderson        | Nicole Matthews |
| Mary Brown          | Kevin Miesner   |
| Kathleen Buraconak  | Laura Miesner   |
| Claudia Denton      | Nina Merget     |
| Kimmi Dukes         | Lydia Miller    |
| Roxanne Fitzpatrick | Judi Moran      |
| David Hayes         | Matthew Natole  |
| Rande Horn          | Joe O'Connor    |
| Lizzie Kagan        | Amy Proctor     |
| Lucy Koviak         | Stacy Punzel    |
| Angela Leach        | Tom Schroeder   |
| Brian Lebovitz      | Laura Sparrow   |
| Bonnie Marks        | Pat Torres      |
| Joanne Martin       | Sherry Zachary  |

So, after all the years, after over 13,000 students and 98 semesters, on June 14, 2019, we will say good-bye. And, as we do, we ask “what did it all really mean?”

What is the legacy of Harrison High School?

Maybe that legacy comes in two pieces. The first part is Harrison's impact as an educational institution. Harrison has been a great teacher. From Harrison, we learned that:

- excellence can be achieved, in the classroom and on the stage or playing field
- all students can succeed, if we're determined enough
- tradition has the power to connect and uplift us
- innovation is a necessity as we prepare kids for the future
- community, both within Harrison and out in the world, enriches us all.

The other piece of the inheritance of Harrison is personal. What does Harrison mean to you? Perhaps Harrison is where you took the first significant steps from childhood into adulthood, helped along by a beloved teacher or coach. Maybe it's where you got the first glimmerings of what you wanted to do with your life and began to believe in yourself. Maybe it's where you fell in love for the first time.

Perhaps you weren't a student at Harrison but connected in another way. As a parent, maybe Harrison gave you the comforting sense that your child would be OK, that he or she would get what was needed academically, socially, and emotionally to find the right path. Maybe you found a staff member who understood your child, doing whatever it took to offer help. You may have given hours in support of a team, a musical production, or a school improvement project.

Maybe Harrison was where you earned your stripes as a teacher. You remember so many students, so many classroom moments when you laughed in pleasure at the learning or vowed to do better the next day. You cherish the colleagues who helped you in the work you did.

Why do we say “Once a Hawk, always a Hawk?” We say it because, in many ways, our experiences at Harrison have changed us all. De Shaun Knight, Class 2017, writes “our legacy will never end because we will never lose the green and gold Hawk blood. We will never lose the Hawk pride. . . This school has not just educated us, but it has become its own culture— a culture of individuals, trailblazers, and creators. Yes, it's time to move on, and the clock is running out; however, our final Hawks can leave proud, with our heads held high.”

*Remember the legacy of this wonderful school, and keep Harrison in your heart.*

# Administrators

## *Principals*

Nine dedicated (and courageous) individuals have led our school as principals over the years, and each has made significant contributions.

**Lewis Schulman** opened Harrison in the fall of 1970. Known for his charismatic personality and strong leadership style, he merged a disparate group of novice and veteran teachers into a cohesive team. He set up an organizational framework that worked efficiently to meet the needs of teenagers in the freewheeling seventies. Mr. Schulman's leadership continued in 1973, when he left Harrison to become Superintendent of Farmington Schools.



**James Geiger** served Harrison from 1973 until 1984, when he retired. "Gentleman Jim," as he was called by those who knew him best and admired his style, guided the school as it grew from a fledgling learning organization into a full four-year high school, complete with a wide-ranging curriculum and a variety of learning opportunities, meeting the needs of a variety of students.



**Clayton Graham** came to Harrison in 1984. His tenure at Harrison was characterized by his extraordinary optimism and endless patience with kids. Under his leadership, Harrison continued its successful traditions, winning additional state championships in football and marching band and continuing its pattern of innovation in curriculum. Mr. Graham can still be seen in attendance at many Harrison events today.



**Rande Horn**, Harrison's longest serving principal, presided over Harrison from 1993 until 2005. It was a time of great change for the school, as our student population grew in diversity, a major construction project was undertaken, a new daily schedule was adopted, and curriculum changes abounded. In spite of these challenges, Harrison's tradition of achievement continued, and shortly after Mr. Horn left for another administrative post, Harrison was listed as one of the country's top 1,000 schools.

**Sulura Jackson's** stay at Harrison was brief but meaningful. Before she left the school after one semester to develop a new high school in another city, she brought fresh perspectives and new ideas to Harrison.



**Jim Myers** was the first Harrison principal to begin work mid-year, and he brought experience as both a building principal (at middle school and high school levels) and a central office administrator. Dr. Myers was soon to embrace the title of Head Hawk, however, and his vitality, skill, and wisdom steadied the school in its time of transition. Dr. Myers remains involved at Harrison today, volunteering in a number of ways to promote great outcomes for the school.



**Aaron Johnson** became the principal of Harrison in January of 2008, after serving as an assistant principal at Farmington High School and in Hamtramck. Quickly settling in, he earned the support of Harrison's staff and students with his ready smile and calm presence. He also brought a deep interest in developing Harrison's connections with students, staff, and alumni. Mr. Johnson's



energy, enthusiasm, and strong commitment to our school insured that, forty years after it opened, Harrison remained true to its mission of providing all students with multiple pathways to reach their maximum potential. Mr. Johnson continued to serve students as an Assistant Superintendent in Farmington.

**Lawrence Stroughter** came to Harrison in 2013 and his years here made a lasting impact on students and staff. He consistently used data as a way to help inform teachers and influence the direction of the school. He upgraded the building electronically, personally wiring new equipment. He coined the lasting phrase, “Take care of yourself, take care of others, and take care of Harrison.” Mr. Stroughter even had his own varsity jacket custom-made, and he wore it with pride! Most importantly of all, he truly cared about each and every student in the school.



**James Anderson** has had a most unusual role in Harrison’s history, as it has been his job since 2016 to preside over the school in its final years of service to Farmington teens. He has been an excellent guide, wisely leading the staff through the transition from three comprehensive high schools to two. An effective communicator, he has sought staff feedback frequently and always explained the “why” of a decision. He has led by example and had an open-door policy for students and staff. Jim has been a strong advocate for inclusive education and a very visible principal— there has rarely been an event he didn’t attend. His steadying hand and optimistic outlook have been invaluable in the helping us all to say goodbye to a school we love.

## *Assistant Principals / Administrative Assistants*

Over the years Harrison has been fortunate to have a series of gifted building administrators working beside the principals.

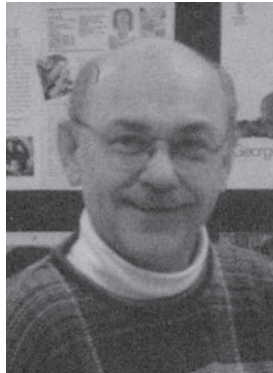
- Jerry Allison
- Robert Anderson
- Catherine Armstrong
- Alton Bennett
- Dave Beazley
- Mary Brown
- Jack Buller
- Paul Cassatta

- Will Chaisson
- Lisa Dean
- Norm Dickson
- Dee Lacy
- Angela Leach
- Dennis Noe
- Chris O’Brien

- Dave Poelke
- David Reese
- Allison Robinson
- Lydia Runkel
- Bill Smith
- John Summerlee
- Bob Wilson



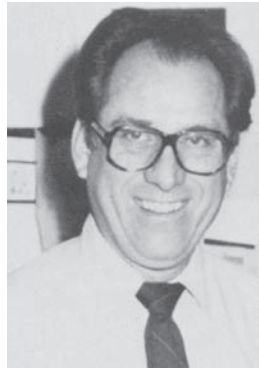
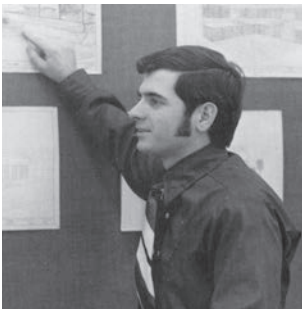
Harrison's Art Department began in windowless classrooms on the third floor. Finally, after more than three decades, they moved to large, airy studios on the second floor and forged new pathways in the arts. Students thrive in Harrison's art classes, finding new modes of personal expression through a curriculum that embraces many media, from Drawing and Painting to Explorations in 3-D art.



Not only have they found wonderful ways to express their creativity, but they have also achieved. For example:

- 17 years of Senior Art Exhibitions, featuring approximately 50 students a year, displaying their work in ceramics, drawing, graphic design, jewelry, painting, photography
- 5 year of International Baccalaureate Art Exhibitions
- Scholastic Art & Writing winners in ceramics, drawing, graphic design, jewelry, painting, including multiple Gold Keys for individual work and Senior Portfolios
- Farmington High School art competition winners in ceramics, drawing and painting, and including Best in Show
- The inaugural Anne Frank Art & Writing Competition at the Holocaust Memorial Center with awards for drawing and painting, including 1st place.

Educators at Harrison have a formidable task. They must hone the speaking, writing, reading, computing, and thinking skills of students, preparing them for college through a host of academic courses designed to give them knowledge of the past and present worlds. An equally important charge, however, is to prepare students for the world of work. For most of Harrison's history, the Business, Life Management, Medical Skills and what we called "the Industrial Arts Department" did just that, through an array of courses as varied as Foods, Autos, and Typing.



But the world of 2018 is a much different place from the world of 1970, and through a continuous process of evolution, these departments have met the challenge—and merged to become one very powerful tool for student success. The formula for this success is simple: a Career and Technical Education at FPS = A Career-Focused Education = Employability = High Skill, High Demand, High Wage. Farmington Public Schools boasts the largest Career and Technical Education (CTE) program in Oakland County, with 10 state-approved programs and more than 60 percent of the students at each of the three high schools participating in this series of courses. And Harrison has been integral to the development of this program.

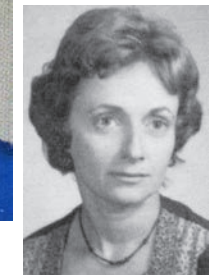
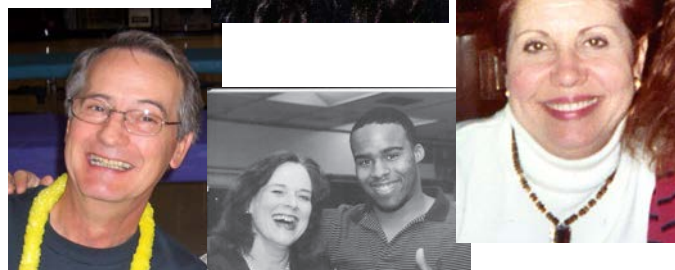
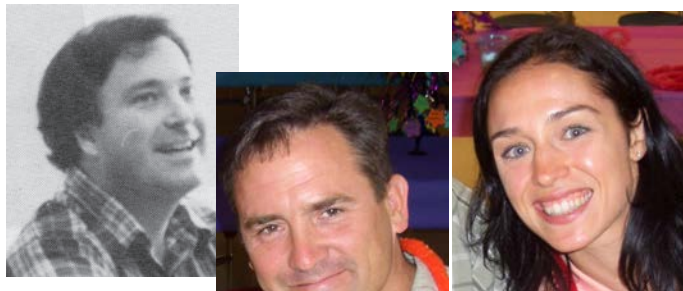
## Career Technology Education 2

While over the decades students thrived in classes like Child Development, Fashion Design, Personal Finance, and Auto Repair, most recently an abundance of new courses has given a state-of-the-art education for the future. Offerings in such fields as Architectural Design and Technology, Computer Science and Programming, Engineering and Design Technology, Finance and Accounting, Marketing, Medical Skills and Health Science, and Web Design provide a wide selection of potential career paths.



Harrison students will have a huge advantage in the workplace of the future, thanks to their Harrison experiences in the Career Technology Department.

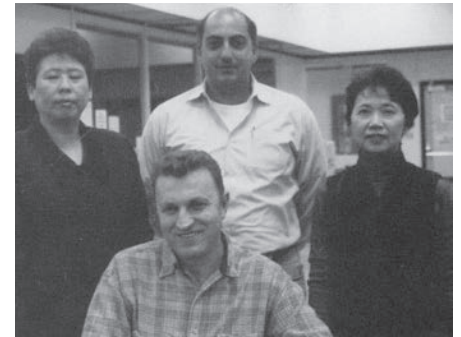
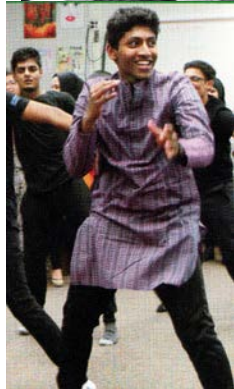
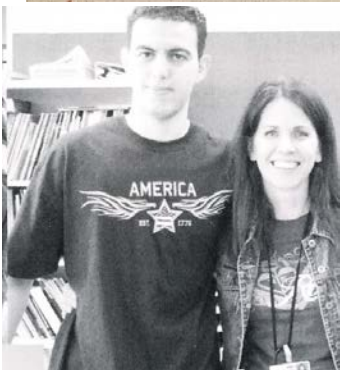
The English department has a tradition of creativity when it comes to developing courses based on student needs and interests, at the same time honoring state curriculum requirements. In past decades core classes provided a foundation, but students could choose from a variety of elective courses in several areas, such as literature, writing, performance, and special interest classes. Special needs were address through Transitional English for Harrison's newcomers from other countries, as well as a "basic" track for students who needed extra support in their language skills.



Recent years have brought changes. Important electives have been embedded in all core English classes, and those old writers whose works are called the "Canon" are often replaced by non-fiction with greater appeal to teens today. Shorter fiction pieces balance out novels, and reading and writing skills are emphasized more than the thematic approach to literature. The Honors/AP program and IB courses offer advanced students opportunities for earning college credit. Proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, viewing and critical thinking are, plain and simple, necessities in our world, and HHS grads leave our school well-prepared.

# English Language Learners

When Harrison first opened, its student body was almost exclusively white, with Western European heritage. A lot has changed since then! Now, Hawks come from all around the globe; in fact, a whopping 77 languages have been spoken by our students in the 22 years of the program. --Being a teenager isn't always easy, and it's a lot harder when your family is starting over in a new land. Therefore, Harrison's Bilingual Program was established to help students gain better skills in English, advance their academic knowledge, and address their social needs as they adjust to life in our country.



Specifically, the department offers services in three areas to help students:

- The Newcomer's Center, established in 1996, offers intensive help in developing the four basic language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, and also focuses on building competence in academic language skills
- The Inclusion Program puts extra teachers right in the classrooms with the students, decreasing their anxiety and motivating them to top performance
- The Tutoring Program provides that extra support students need to complete their homework and study assignments.

The ELL Department staff has helped between 70 and 100 students each year and is a vital part of life at Harrison.



There was a time when we all thought only of Latin, French, and Spanish— and maybe German, too— when we thought of the foreign language department. And perhaps we also thought about foreign language only in terms of vocabulary and verb declensions. That time is vanished forever at Harrison. Today, Latin is long gone, and Japanese and Arabic have been added to the curriculum. Harrison's language department works together with FHS and NFHS to make sure that students get the instruction they want— even if it involves allowing them to travel to other schools or, if the budget allows, to use the distance learning approach.

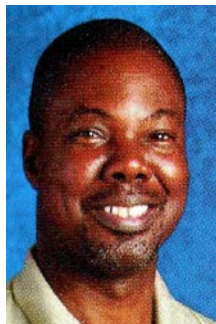
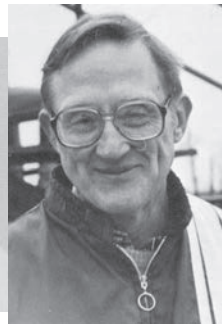


Foreign language instruction at Harrison is vibrant and includes a creative cultural education, as well. Classrooms themselves are colorful introductions to the customs and scenery of other people and places, and the foreign language clubs, in place since Harrison's opening, provide extracurricular opportunities to explore further. For decades, the Mardi Gras has been a celebration of many cultures, as well as a symbol of the joy this department brings to its work.

In a world dominated by technology, for a school to be deemed successful, it must produce students highly competent in mathematics. Harrison students, guided by dedicated teachers, have had no trouble meeting the mark.

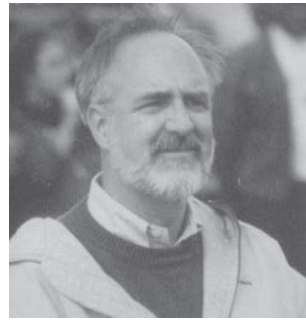


- Hang around after school, and most days you'll see teachers
- tutoring students as evidence of mutual commitment to
- achievement. The result is great performance. Check out
- the Michigan Math Exam, where in the years Harrison has
- been open, over 20 students have ranked in the Top 100 in
- the state, and several have placed in the Top 10. In 2003,
- Harrison placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State at the American Math
- Invitational. Visit a math classroom at HHS, and you'll
- see creative teachers determined to find a method to reach
- their students, and students convinced that they can indeed
- be successful in math— and therefore in their futures in
- college and career.



The curriculum is rock solid; underclassmen begin with Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2 and progress to the more sophisticated Statistics, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, or IB Maths, with these courses being offered in regular and advanced levels.

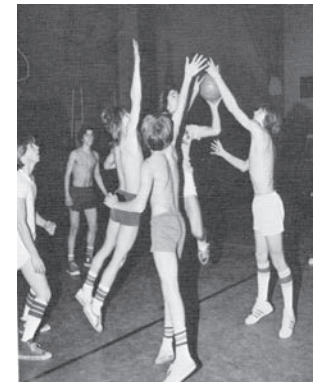
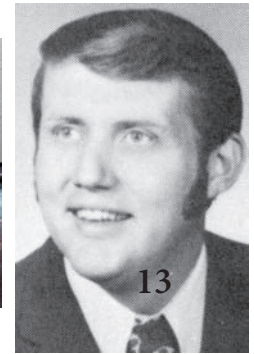
In the music department at Harrison, a special feeling came over visitors. In both the original and the renovated music suites, a happy bustle prevailed as students lugged instruments here and there, practiced notes and chords, and prepared for performances. This department was somewhat unique in that its coursework was very directly linked to extracurricular activities, and proof of its excellence was not shown through tests, essays, and traditional homework, but rather through polished performances.



Coursework mingled performance and academic study, as students took classes like Music Theory and Making Music in Cyberworld, as well as Chorus, Concert Choir, Symphony Band, Orchestra, Percussion, and Keyboarding. The school depended on a class like Auditorium Tech to support the various presentations throughout the year. To hundreds and hundreds of students throughout the years, the halls of the music department have simply felt like the center of their day, and their lives at Harrison. Our school has been enriched immeasurably.

The physical education experience at HHS changed a great deal over the years. Rather than a requirement for students to complete reluctantly to meet state requirements, for many at HHS, it has provided the key to lifelong fitness. Harrison's Physical Education curriculum has read like an advertisement for a commercial health club. Students have received a basic understanding of the principles of good health and the swimming skills necessary to life in a Great Lakes state, then chosen from a variety of appealing options, including courses which have:

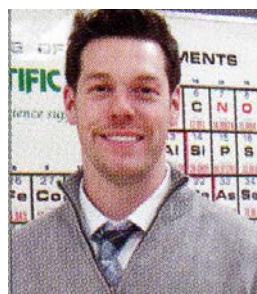
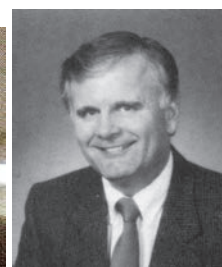
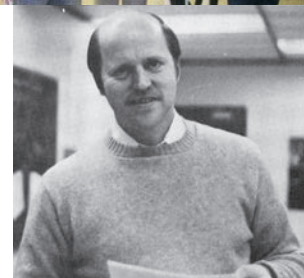
- Prepared students for athletic competition, like Athletic Conditioning and Weight Training
- Provided skills for satisfying personal recreation, like Net and Racquet Sports, Individual Sports, and Team Sports
- Positioned students for a lifetime of health, like Personal Fitness, Yoga and Pilates, and Dance.



Fortunately, our facility matched our aspirations, with a modernized pool, weight room, dance studio, and refurbished outdoor playing fields. Health education has been co-educational for a long time; indeed, the P.E. program at Harrison offered benefits for students of all genders, athletic abilities, and interests, with lifelong physical health as its goal.

Over the years the Science Department has mirrored the success of all the others at Harrison. A walk through the department shows the achievements in the myriad plaques and trophies for Robohawks, Science Bowl, Science Olympiad, Science Fair and TEAMS. Pick a decade and you can find evidence of the Harrison Science department's "Tradition of Excellence."

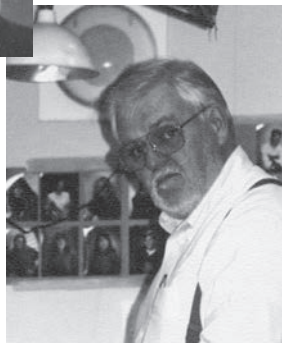
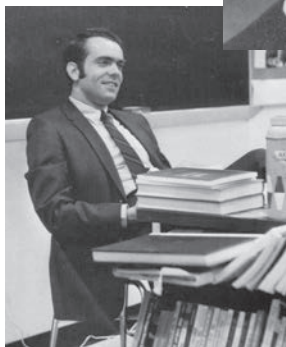
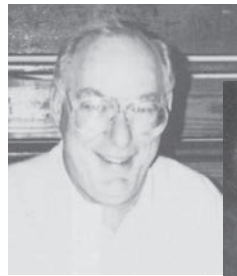
- 1978 – First Place at the 29th International Science and Engineering Fair
- 1984 – Second Place at the Oakland County Science Olympiad
- 1997 - US FIRST Robotics National Rookie All-Star Team
- 1998 – First Place at the TEAMS State Competition
- 2003 - State Champions in Science Olympiad Physics event
- 2010 - Robofest World Champions (before HHS joined the unified team).



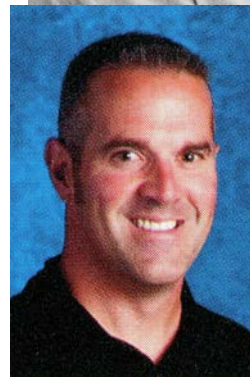
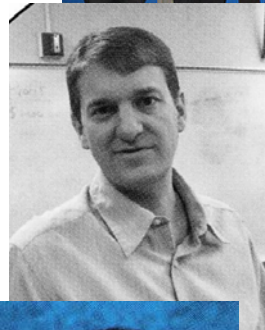
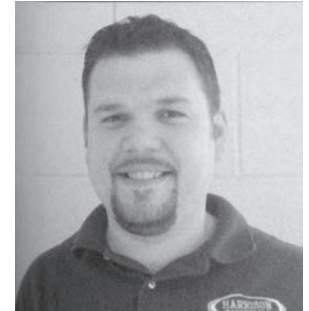
While outstanding performance in competition is one indicator of success, a look at the curriculum provides another. Core and honors courses in Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics have provided a strong foundation for all students. They have also explored further with many different AP and IB courses, as well as branching out with electives like ZOO-ology and Forensic Science. Over the years students have had their curiosity piqued by things like Roy Lewis's rats, snakes, and fruit flies; Joyce Tomlinson's Zoo-ology, Rick Jahn's "30 Day Trip," Steve Dail's honking car horn, and Ken Duma's multitude of carnival tricks. If you attended HHS, you have spent time being challenged and entertained by the Science Department. Hopefully, the many doctors, nurses, engineers, and entrepreneurs from HHS can attribute some of their success to the start they got in the science classrooms of Harrison.

# Social Studies

Talk to teachers in every department, and they'll make a claim for their discipline being the most important. In our complex world and our new era of globalization, however, it seems as if the social studies department could make a pretty solid case. Because of the efforts of the teachers in this department, students leave HHS prepared to take on their responsibilities as both American and global citizens, and have the base of information and the interpretive skills needed to make sense of the world.

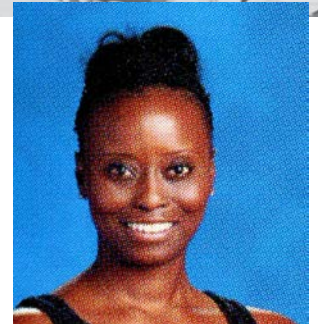


Of course, there's a reason why it's called social studies now and not the history department. Although students can take a variety of history courses, including American, European, and World History, Civil War, and World War II, they can also explore the realms of psychology, economics, civics, and sociology. Classes like Micro-Economics, World Religions, Psychology, Civics, Sociology and International Affairs look at other aspects of the discipline; AP courses, such as AP Comparative Government and Politics, allow students to dig more deeply.



Whether they need help understanding a current headline—or figuring out how the past brought us to the present—Harrison students can look to the social studies department for guidance as they find their way toward good answers.

Harrison was the first school in the district to offer Advanced Placement classes, beginning with AP Calculus in 1975, and has had a thriving AP program ever since. AP classes are intellectually demanding, and successful students have the potential of earning college credit for their work. Traditionally, over 300 Advanced Placement tests have been taken each spring by Harrison students, and many are successful. In 2016, for example, 70% of the students taking tests scored a 3 or better, earning them credit at many colleges and universities.



Over the years, students have been able to choose from a variety of courses in different disciplines:

*Language Arts*

Honors 9, Honors 10, AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition

*Mathematics*

Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II/Trig, Honors Pre-Calc, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Statistics

*Sciences*

Accelerated Physics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Environmental Science

*Social Studies*

AP European History, AP Microeconomics, AP Psychology, AP U.S. Government and Politics, AP U.S. History, AP World History

*World Languages*

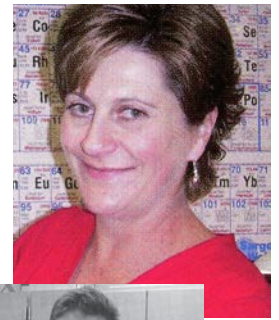
AP Spanish 5

In the fall of 2011 students throughout Farmington were offered a unique learning opportunity with the opening of the district's International Baccalaureate Program at Harrison. Beginning with a class of 140 ninth-grade students, the program grew each year, so that by the spring of the 2015 school year, the first IB diploma students graduated; the fourth IB class graduated in 2018.

The International Baccalaureate is a world-wide program with schools in countries across the globe. Its mission is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. It works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.



Service Learning is a vital part of the IB experience, combining volunteering, language immersion, and cross-cultural lessons and tourism. The HHS IB students have had 6 very successful Service Learning trips to the Dominican Republic. They have painted murals, built bookcases, created a new garden, and— possibly the most noteworthy— developed what was formerly a garbage dump into a baseball field. It now has a new title: Harrison's Field of Dreams!



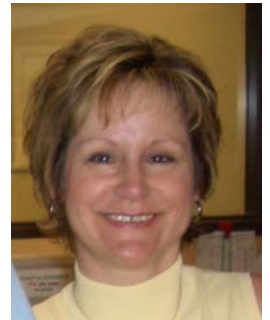
Like the classes before it, the graduating IB class of 2018 has many notable achievements:

- 5 National Merit Finalists
- 1 National Hispanic Merit Finalist
- 1 Presidential Scholar (the first in the district since 2000)
- A record number of Hall of Fame inductees— 7 so far in the class of 2018.

This year's IB students scored in the 90th percentile on the SAT, and tests in several subject areas were above the world average, earning students an average of 25 college credits.

We are proud of our IB program and proud also that the ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity of our students is reflective of our community.

Harrison's media center sits in the exact middle of the third floor, and its position seems symbolic, since access to facts and figures is crucial in our Information Age. Over the years, the media specialists, paraprofessionals, and techs have worked hard to make students feel welcome, giving service a top priority. Of course, that service has changed dramatically in the last four decades, evolving from helping students negotiate the Card Catalog, Dewey Decimal System, and Reader's Guide to teaching them how to find the best database to fit their needs— as well as how to navigate the Internet with a critical eye. In recent years Media Technicians have taken over the job.



The “audio-visual” department has moved far beyond the filmstrips, record albums and cassettes of Harrison's earlier years, and into the realm of overseeing and maintaining a variety of tech tools. Media department people are good at anticipating the needs of teachers and students, predicting them months in advance and making sure they are in place.

One last thing: Harrison's media staff have always had a knack for supporting teachers as well as students, and have made it part of their mission to nurture the spirit of our school. “Marian the Librarian” is a remnant of the past, as our media department members are savvy and sophisticated guides to understanding our complex world, simultaneously making Harrison a better school.

## 20 Counselors, Planning Room Staff, & School Psychologists

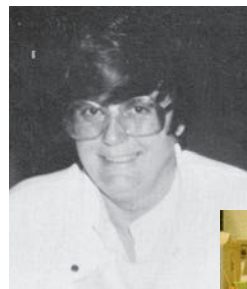
"I *must* get out of my fifth hour class!" "I *have* to get into U of M!" "I *need* to see you right now . . ." "I'll have to *quit* school if you can't . . ."

Each and every day, Harrison's counselors hear the passionate cries of the teenagers they serve with patience, humor, and wisdom, and somehow find a way to help their students meet the challenges of high school life. Our counselors register new students, adjust schedules, explain college application rituals, write letters of recommendation, administer high stakes testing programs, and talk, talk, talk with students and parents, as they encourage, soothe, and guide.



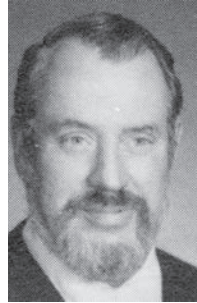
• Three important programs extend the work of the counselors:

- The Planning Room, where a skilled paraprofessional helps students work on plans for improving behavior
- The Student Assistance Team, which supports a number of programs ranging from AIDS education to Peer Mediation
- The school social worker and psychologists, who provide a most unique form of understanding to their "precious jewels."



• For decades now the special individuals in this department have eased our tensions, encouraged our hearts, and shown us the way to reach our dreams.

Harrison is home to many different kinds of learners, and our teachers are determined that all of them can achieve, if they receive just the right support. Approximately 150 students per year receive that help through the services of the Special Education department.



Staff members reach out to students through a number of programs:

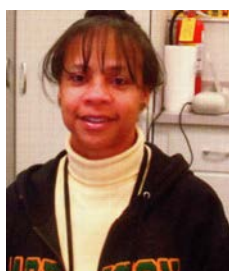
- Resource Program (for Learning Disabled students in written expression, math, and reading)
- Autistic Program
- Cognitively Impaired Program
- Severely Multiply Impaired Program
- POHI Program (Physically and Otherwise Health Impaired).

The best part is that students who have a learning disability or use a wheelchair aren't isolated – quite the opposite. They are simply another part of life at Harrison.

# Secretaries and Parapros

“Secretaries Work Amid Confusion” proclaims a page in an early Harrison RETROSPECT, and not much has changed in all these years. Students stream into the office and library with numerous *very* urgent requests, staff members smile but make polite demands, administrators acknowledge they couldn’t live without them, and the phone rings incessantly. The truth: Harrison would shut down in one single day without our secretaries.

The next line of defense after the secretaries is our paraprofessionals. These dedicated individuals assist in a number of ways in classrooms, the media center, special education and bilingual rooms, the athletic complex. Actually, just about anywhere you go in the building, you’re not far from a paraprofessional, quietly supporting the serious business of learning and the development of young people.



One more truth: you probably wouldn’t be holding this magazine in your hands without the efforts of a Harrison secretary and paraprofessional.

Harrison is another home partly because it represents what a home should be— a safe place, where one is loved, understood and nourished in a clean and caring environment.

For all these years, while the teachers were teaching, the administrators were administering, and the students were studying, a small group of people was working hard to provide an environment where teenagers could learn and grow.

To the kitchen staff who provided us with healthy food—and wonderful French fries . . .



To the custodians who kept our classrooms and hallways clean, putting up with our messes . . .



To the hall monitors who not only ushered us to class but also listened to our problems with complete devotion for literally decades. . .



To the parking lot attendants who kept us from killing ourselves . . .



We say, "Thank You!"

# Harrison High School 1970 – 1980

The first decade of life at Harrison meant beginnings— of all sorts. The seventies were indeed a time to both create and improvise. In September of 1970, approximately 1,100 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders came to Harrison and found a school not quite ready for the year ahead. Music classes were held in the cafeteria, the football team practiced at Beechview Swim Club, and the swim team, confronted with a pool without water, used the pools at NFHS and FHS. The 1974 yearbook reported with some joy that “the addition of a refrigerator also aided the home economics department.”



In spite of these challenges, it didn't take long for some of Harrison's institutions to develop. 1972 saw the first year of CATALYST publication, followed soon by the establishment of AQUILLA, the literary magazine. The school store opened as Karma. Extracurricular activities like the Chess Club, the Home Ec Club, and the Debate Team were added. *Spoon River* began Harrison's theater tradition. In the spring of 1975, the HHS chapter of the National Honor Society was installed. Each year saw the addition of new sports and activities, as the school began to take on its identity.



*Do you remember . . .*

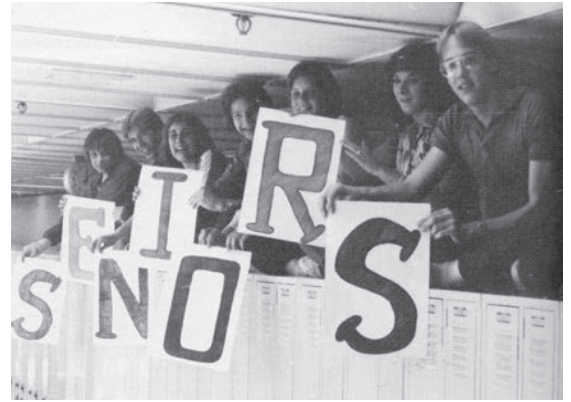
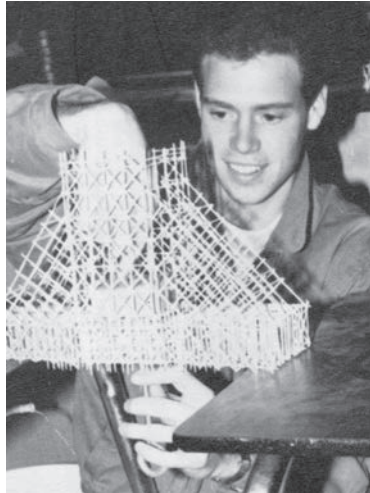
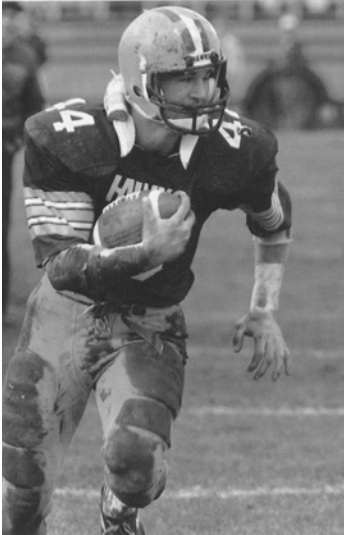
When Harrison was a three-year high school \*When female teachers wore short skirts and long hair \*College style registration \*When everyone in the school wore Lew Schulman t-shirts \*The indoor mall \*When girls weren't allowed into varsity club \*TOPS \*When the girls' tennis team had the first undefeated year in school history \*Purple mimeographed copies \*The loss to Midland Dow in the Hawks' first Silverdome appearance \*When the boys' track team made the state finals \*Language Labs \*Reading Improvement with the tachistoscope \*The Aquastars \*The only teacher strike in Farmington's history \*When student government included both a Senate and a House of Representatives \*The Ping Pong Club \*Harrison's own WYME radio?



Outside Harrison walls we had Watergate and the resignation of Nixon, the end of Vietnam War, and signing of the Camp David Accords, the first Energy Crisis, and the Jonestown Massacre. Socially, we saw the rise of environmentalism, feminism, and the remnants of the hippie culture. On our TV and movie screens, we watched *All in the Family*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Love Story*, *The Godfather*, *Rocky*, *Annie Hall*, *Saturday Night Fever*, and *Jaws*. We listened to the music of Fleetwood Mac, Elton John, James Taylor, The Doobie Brothers, The Bee Gees, Led Zeppelin, and Pink Floyd. And we got a hint of the technological revolution ahead with the advent of pocket calculators, VCR's, and microwaves.

# Harrison High School 1980 –1990

With a solid foundation in place, Harrison's students and staff were positioned for success in the '80s. As the decade began, Harrison became a four year high school and left behind the identity of the upstart new school. The football team began its prominence, and many of the traditions begun in the first decade became permanently established.

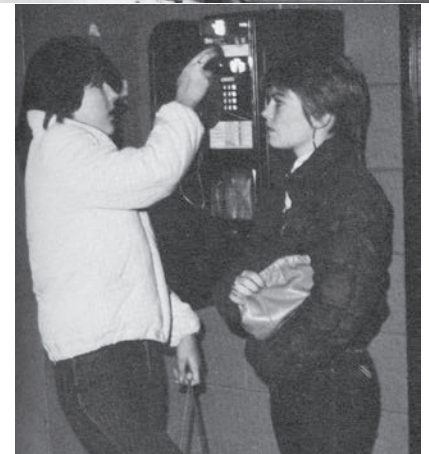
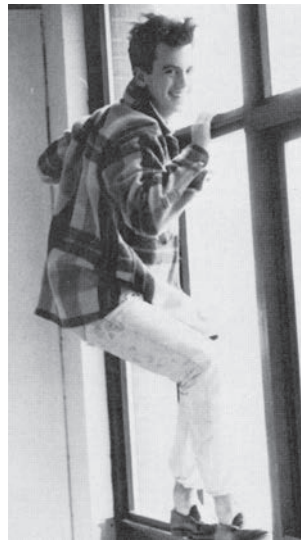


After the turbulence of the seventies, echoed on campuses everywhere, the faculty welcomed a time of greater stability, as curriculum developed and students were regarded, according to the CATALYST, as "much more conservative and serious in the classroom."



*Do you remember . . .*

Harrison's first Academic Letter Award night \*When the football team ran through the halls on Friday afternoon \*When the CATALYST took national honors from the Columbia Press Club \* Boom boxes \*Senior Excuse \*Study Hall \*Early Graduation \*Student Aides \*the pay phone by the front door?



Outside Harrison walls we had the standoff at Tiananmen Square, the Iran Hostage Crisis, the Iran-Iraq War, the Lockerbie Tragedy, Reaganomics, the War on Drugs, Gorbachev, the eruption of Mount St. Helen's, the Bhopal Disaster, the Challenger Shuttle catastrophe, the assassination of John Lennon, the beginning of the AIDS pandemic, and the boycott of the Moscow Olympics. On our TV and movie screens, we watched the Detroit Pistons' Bad Boys, *Flashdance*, *Dynasty*, *Platoon*, *E.T.*, *Rain Man*, *Indiana Jones*, *Miami Vice*, *Cheers*, and *Saved by the Bell*. We listened to Michael Jackson, Madonna, Bon Jovi, Queen, Guns 'n' Roses. We used technology to help us play with PAC Man, MTV, and Game Boy.



# Harrison High School 1990 - 2000

The nineties marked a time of achievement for Hawks, both in the classroom and on the playing field. The Marching Band won state championships in 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1996. The football team dominated the state gridiron, bringing home trophies in 1991, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, and 1999. The TEAMS program placed first in the state in Engineering Aptitude in Math and Science; in fact, HHS placed in the top 13 schools in the country six out of seven years.

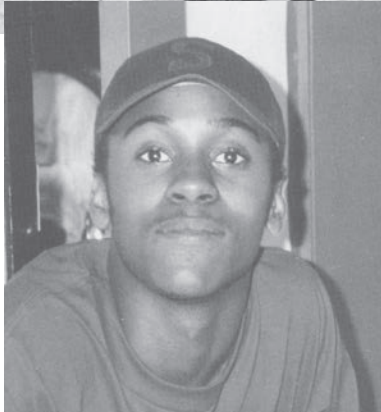


Eight staff members won district, state, or national recognition for their teaching excellence. Curriculum development continued, with courses like BRIDGES, LINK, and CISCO. The look of the school changed as well, as our student body reflected the growing diversity of our country, and a major building renovation project began.



*Do you remember . . .*

When smoking was banned on the patio and in the stairwells and bathrooms \*The day the Marching Band won the state championship in their first full year of state competition \*When the RoboHawks took Rookie All-State honors in national competition \*Student Assistance \*When the spaces in the parking lot went from parallel to perpendicular \*When we all wondered if RAGE was an anger management group?

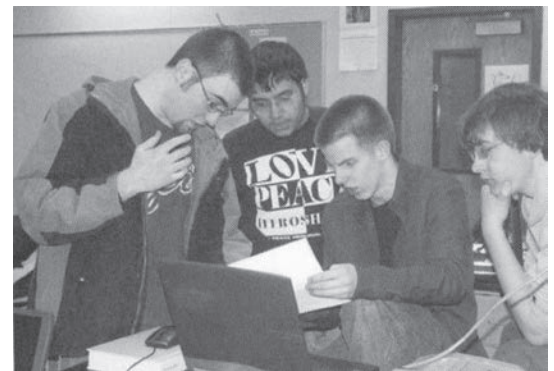


Outside Harrison walls we had the First Gulf War, LA Riots, the Oklahoma City Bombing, the Lewinsky Scandal, the Rwandan Genocide, the release of Nelson Mandela from Prison, Hurricane Andrew, the end of Soviet Union, the Columbine Tragedy, the OJ Trial, the Deaths of Princess Diana, Kurt Cobain and Tupac Shakur. On our TV and movie screens, we watched *Seinfeld*, *Baywatch*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Jurassic Park*, *The Lion King*, Michael Jordan, *Forrest Gump* and *The Simpsons* (created by one of our own!) We listened to the Spice Girls, Britney Spears, 'N Sync, Nirvana, Mariah Carey and Green Day. And we witness the advent of email, MP3 Players, Microsoft Windows, Dolly the Sheep, and global warming.



# Harrison High School 2000 - 2010

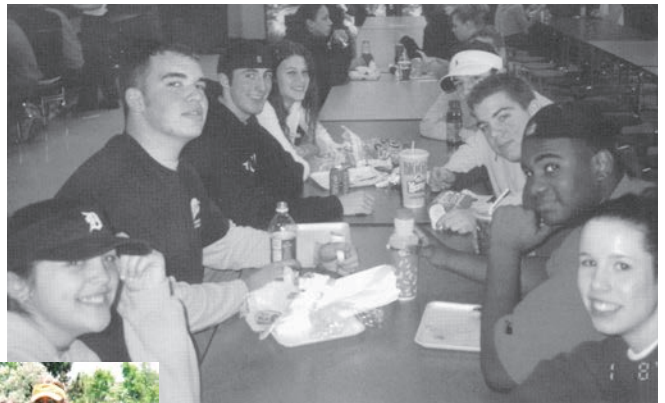
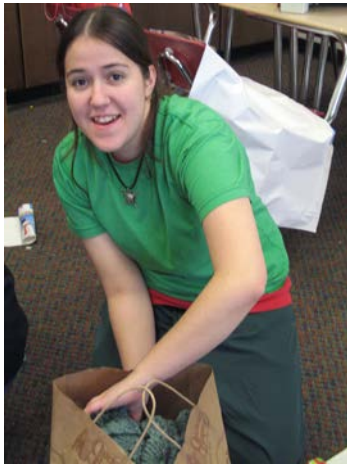
The first decade of the new millennium meant a time of significant change at Harrison. Block scheduling brought a new way of organizing the week, with students taking seven 82 minute classes. Teachers experimented with new techniques with the goal of building interactive segments into each lesson. In 2007, the schedule was restructured, allowing students to take five 70 minute classes a day in each of three twelve-week trimesters.



The physical renovation of the school, plus the schedule changes, stimulated growth in many areas. Dance was added to the curriculum, as was Electrathon and a variety of other courses. The first annual Communication Camp was held with the goal of understanding diversity and breaking down stereotypes. Harrison received a \$295,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education under their Smaller Learning Communities Program. The Harrison Academic Hall of Fame program was initiated. The RoboHawks were the only team in Michigan selected to be on InvenTeam, and received an \$8,000 grant for their robotic boat concept. Harrison is becoming the school of the future.

*Do you remember. . .*

When Harrison became a closed campus \*When RAGE received a \$75,000 grant \*RESPECT buttons \*The day hats were banned \*SMART/Seminar/Advantage \*When the Golf Team was ranked an All-State Academic team for their 3.78 GPA \*Pay to play \*Charity Week \*Evening for the Arts \*When the Poms won first place at the Mid-America State Championship at EMU?

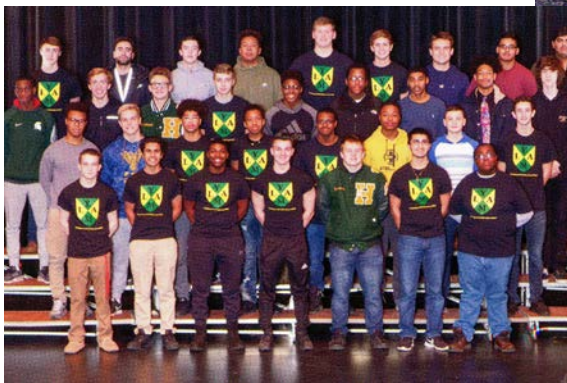
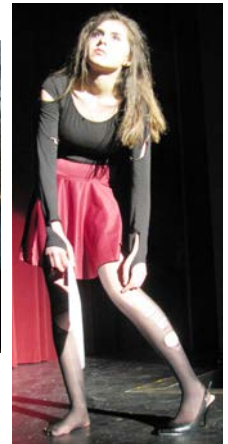


Outside Harrison walls we had the War on Terrorism, the War in Darfur, the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Tragedy, Al-Qaeda, the Tsunami Disaster, Swine Flu, Hurricane Katrina, the Fall of Saddam Hussein, the Dot-Com Bubble Burst, the Global Financial Crisis, and the Kyoto Protocol. On our TV and movie screens we watched *The Pirates of the Caribbean*, *The Hurt Locker*, *Harry Potter*, *Avatar*, *The Da Vinci Code*, Reality TV, *Dancing with the Stars*, *Crash*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Million Dollar Baby*, *American Idol*, the *Twilight* series, *CSI* and *24*. We listened to Eminem, Beyoncé, Kid Rock, Third Eye Blind, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Technology began to dominate our lives with text messaging, the iPhone, Blu-Ray, blogs and wikis, Internet commerce, and YouTube.

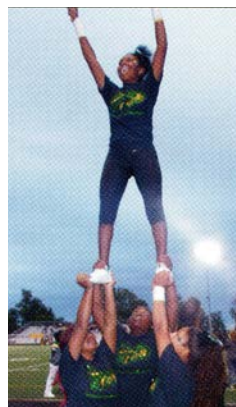


# Harrison High School 2010 - 2019

“At Harrison, there’s a place for everyone.” Perhaps the words of Assistant Principal Angela Leach best express the final decade— and meaning— of Harrison. The school has gone beyond thinking about “diversity” and “inclusion” as lofty ideals to seek. Instead, these values are simply a normal way of conducting everyday life. There is a compatibility, a harmony at Harrison that allows the individual to flourish— look at the number of clubs, sports, academic paths— but also a sense of peace with this abundance of difference. So it fits that in page after page demonstrating the many facets of life at Harrison, the theme of the 2010 RETROSPECT is “Becoming One!”



But it goes deeper than just “getting along” and showing respect. “Leave your mark,” commands the RETROSPECT. And as we look at all that has been achieved by Harrison staff and students, we know— beyond a doubt— that the Harrison of this decade, and all of those that came before, will indeed leave a mark, and it will be indelible.



Outside of Harrison Walls, we had the Paris attacks, the opening of the National Museum of African-American History, NFL players taking a knee, the Me-Too movement, immigration challenges worldwide, and a stalled Congress. On our smart tv's, we watched one Netflix or Amazon Prime show after another, including *Orange is the New Black*, *Breaking Bad*, and *The Americans*. We thrilled to *Spiderman*, laughed over the *Big Bang Theory*, and saw ourselves reflected in *Modern Family* and *Black-ish*.

We communicated through Hulu, Twitter, and Snapchat, rode with Uber, and "selfies" dominated our photo albums (kept on our phones). We listened to Fetty Wop, Taylor Swift, Justin Timberlake, Adele, The Weekend, Bruno Mars, Drake, Carrie Underwood, Cold Play, and Rihanna.

*Do you remember . . .*

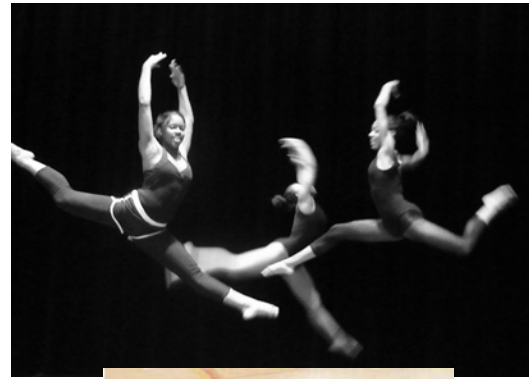
International Night \*Winter Spirit Week \*the Dominican Trip \*healthier snacks \*Charity Week \*Communication Camp \*tattoos \*Pink Out \*HOSA \*Hawk Help\* Freshmen Celebration \* Prom King \*the Bowling Team \*Building. . . Honor, Achievements, Work-Ethic, Knowledge, Success. . . through Relationships?



# Dance and Dance Company

In the past decade, the Harrison Dance Company has been honored to be chosen to perform in the top dance concerts in the Regional and National High School Dance Festival (Norfolk, VA; Philadelphia, PA; Pittsburgh, PA). Our students have also earned scholarships for college and summer dance programs.

The HDC is also host to the Oakland County Dance Festival, where high school and college dancers come together for a full day of dance. The Festival provides free and inexpensive programs for our community and opportunities for dancers to participate in master classes, audition for college scholarships, and present their own creative work before a panel of college professors.



Besides creating choreography for the HDC, our dancers also work with visiting guest artists as well. Our past choreographers include present and former members of the Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet; the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, the LION KING on Broadway; Ballet MET and White Oaks Ballet Company; Koresh Dance Company; Eisenhower Dance Ensemble; and our very own HDC alumni, Alex Springer (Doug Varone and Dancers) and Rachael Harbert (artLab J Dance Company).

Harrison Hawks love music, and this love spills out of the classroom and into auditoriums, playing fields, and music festivals throughout the community, as HHS instrumental music groups perform throughout the year.



Our choral music program offers a chance for students to participate in several different groups. The Mixed Choir, Madrigal Choir, and Women's Choir provide enjoyment to the community, as well as a showcase for many of Harrison's richest voices.



- Harrison's Marching Band is legendary in the state, winning the state championship in its first full year of competition in 1991. Since then, the band has won the championship five more times, taking top honors in 1992, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2001, and has remained in contention annually, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2003, 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2004, and 4<sup>th</sup> in 2007. On several occasions, the Marching Band qualified as one of the top ten performing bands at the Bands of American Regional Championship. And, of course, when they're not competing, the Marching Band is providing unforgettable half-time performances at football games.



- The Marching Band, however, is just one of many performing instrumental groups at HHS. Our students can also participate in Orchestra, Full Orchestra, Concert Band, Symphony Band, Jazz Band, Club Jazz Ensemble, and Wind Ensemble. The Jazz Band has been recognized as one of the top jazz bands in the state and has been invited to the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival annually for over ten years. The Harrison Band was selected to appear at the Michigan State Bands and Orchestra Association Conference in 2002.
- Music is, simply, part of the heart and soul of Harrison.

# Plays and Musicals

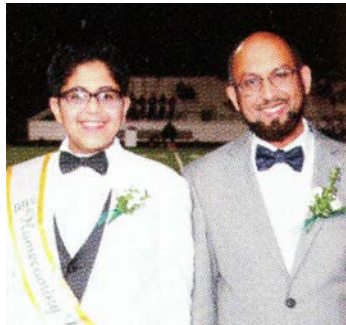
Harrison has offered more performances in the arts than other Farmington schools, with a dramatic play, a musical, a student-written and performed one-act play night most years.



Landmarks in Harrison dramatic history include:

*Spoon River '72, The Miracle Worker '73, Portrait of Jenny '74, David and Lisa '75, Play It Again, Sam '75, Arsenic and Old Lace '76, Our Town '76, Lizzie Borden '77, Guys and Dolls '78, The Timid Dragon '79, Up the Down Staircase '80, Ten Little Indians '81, The Impossible Years '81, Blithe Spirit '82, Bye, Bye, Birdie '85, The Whole Darn Shootin' Match '87, Father of the Bride '88, Harvey '90, Whose Life Is It, Anyway? '93, Little Shop of Horrors '95, The Bells Are Ringing '96, The Mouse Trap '97, Guys and Dolls '98, The Wizard of Oz '99, Oklahoma '01, The Hound of the Baskervilles '02, Anything Goes '02, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat '03, Sabrina Fair '03, The Cinderella Complex '04, 42nd Street '04, Get Smart '05, The Fantasticks '05, Grease '06, High School Musical '08, Hello, Dolly! '09, The Music Man '10, Suessical the Musical '11, Bye, Bye, Birdie '12, Guys and Dolls '13, Peter Pan '14, Xanadu '15, Addams Family '16, Little Mermaid '17, and Hairspray '18.*

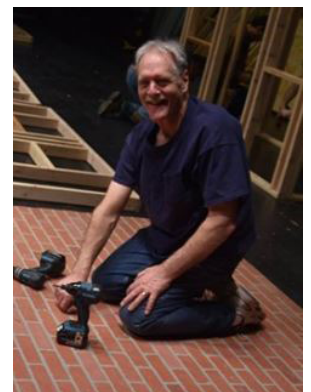
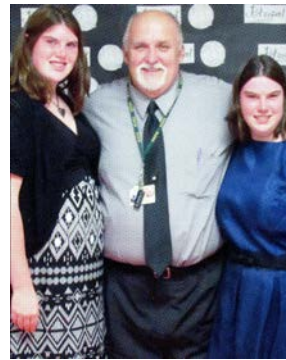
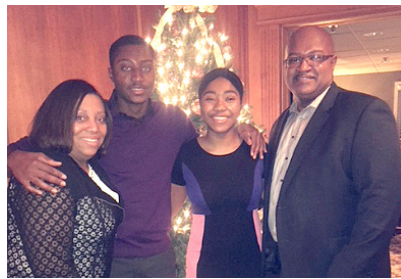
It's quite simple. Harrison would not be the high quality school it is without parent involvement. Parents act as advisors to us as educators. They volunteer for district level committees, and stay well-informed by attending meetings. The Parent Forum has served HHS administrators for years, offering counsel and making sure that accurate information is shared with the community. Most recently, the Farmington African-American Parent Network has joined us in making sure that students of all backgrounds receive the best education possible.



Parents serve as boosters for Harrison's many sports and activities. They raise money, maintain websites, give us valuable leisure time to attend games, concerts, and plays. They also lug equipment, drive kids to and from practices, and guide their children through their triumphs and disappointments.



Parents also help their kids to celebrate. Each year, they work for months in advance planning the Senior All Night Party, keeping their kids safe on graduation night. They buy Homecoming and prom dresses for their daughters, pay for tux rentals for their sons, have the courage to chaperone at parties, and, in a hundred ways, support their children in their social growth through adolescence.

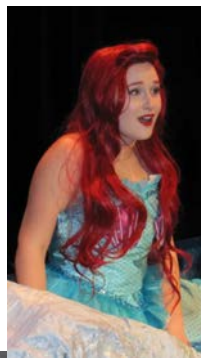


Perhaps most significant of all is the support parents give each and every day, as they hustle their kids to get them to school on time, nag them about studying, make sure they have adequate school supplies, nourishment, and encouragement, and validate the work of their teachers. To the thousands of parents who have hung in there for their teenagers' years at Harrison, we say a sincere and humble "thank you!"

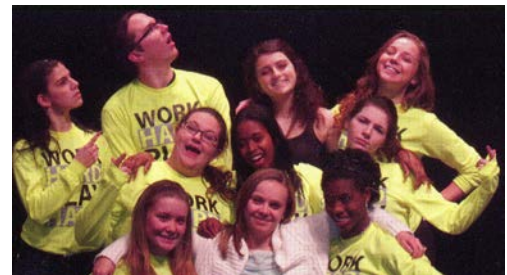
# Extracurricular Activities and Clubs

For close to five decades, Harrison has offered an exciting array of clubs and extracurricular activities, providing students with abundant opportunities to enhance their academic progress and social development. In fact, a recent RETROSPECT tells us that one in three Harrison students participates in a club. The most recent count showed over 54 clubs available to students. The names of the clubs may have changed over the years, but several common themes run through the organizations.

Students themselves have often formed clubs based on their interests, as evidenced by the Ski Club, Chess Club, Photo Club, Computer Club, Euchre Club, Bowling Club, Ping Pong Club, the SXI Club, the Northwest Tower Club, and Book Club.

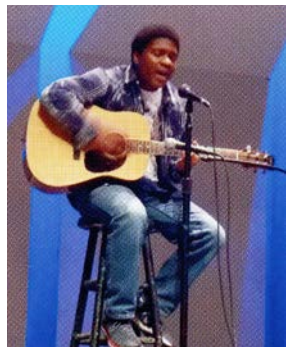


Clubs have also grown out of curriculum. Student groups have formed to support all the language, visual, and performing arts. We have Automotive Club, Forensics, the Thespians, Humanities Club, the Drama Club, the National Art Honor Society, the Ceramics Club, Stagecraft, Auditorium Tech, the literary magazine (which has been called AQUILLA, WHISPERINGS, THE LOOKING GLASS, and PARADOX!), and the Nuance Society. In the sciences clubs have included the Science Club, Science Bowl, TEAMS competition, Electrathon, RoboHawks, Spaghetti Bridge, Science Olympiad, the Psychology Club and ENACT Science. In the area of business and life management, students have taken part in the Home Economics Club, DECA, and the Business Professionals of America. Other organizations connect to the curriculum but are more general in their approach, like the Future Problem Solvers, the Odyssey of the Mind, and the National Honor Society.



Over the years, several of Harrison's clubs have reflected the diversity of the student body and the interest in global culture. Consider: the French Club, the German Club, the Spanish Club, the Japanese Club, the Exchange Club, the Gay Straight Alliance, Students of the World, SEARR, JUMP, the Black Students Association, the International Club, the Asian Culture Club, Developing Minority Leadership, the Model United Nations, the Unity Committee, and CASA (the Chaldean-American Student Association).

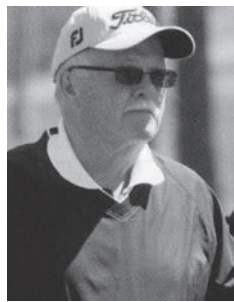
Over the years a number of Harrison's clubs have reflected the diversity of the student body and their interest in global culture. Consider: the French Club, the German Club, the Spanish Club, the Japanese Club, the Exchange Club, Students of the World, SEARR, JUMP, the Black Students Association, the International Club, the Asian Culture Club, Developing Minority Leadership, the Model United Nations, the Unity Committee, CASA (the Chaldean-American Student Association), the Arabic Honor Society, and the Muslim Student Association.



- Several organizations have had the purpose of making the school—and the planet—a better place. The Cheerleading Squad, the Pom-Pon Squad, the Step Team, Pep Club, Peer Mediation, RAGE, and the LINK Crew were developed specifically to create an enriched atmosphere at Harrison.
- The Student Council, including the Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Boards, represents student government at Harrison. Other groups look at social issues and seek to serve the community, such as GAP (Group Aiding the Planet), the Ecology Club, Interact, SADD, the Think Pink Club, and the Young Men's Leadership Academy.

- Extracurricular life at Harrison has a wonderful flexibility to it, as it is responsive to student needs and interests. For so many students, a wonderful part of the school day begins

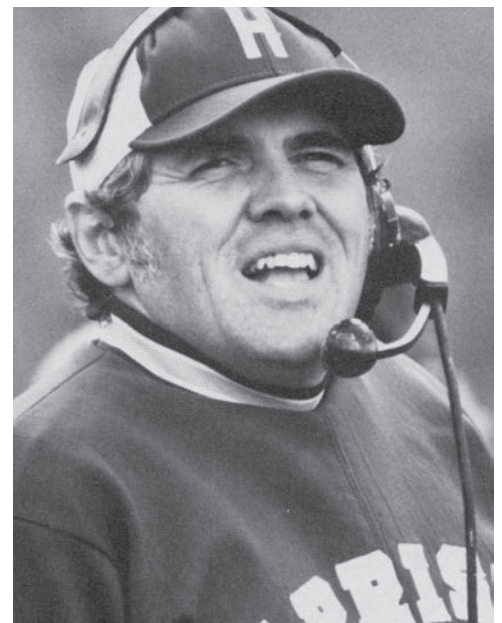
# A Few of Harrison's Legendary Coaches



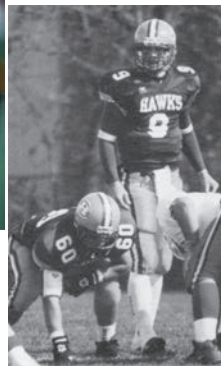
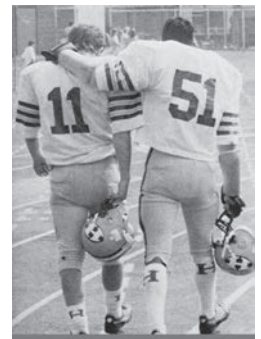
***Hawk Fight Song***

**Go, Harrison Hawks, Go!  
 Fight with all your Might!  
 We will have a victory,  
 Afternoon or night!  
 Go, Go, Go!**

**Show them who's boss, boys;  
 Girls, you do the same!  
 Let it be known that Hawks  
 have shown  
 Who's the victor of the game!  
 Fight!**



There's so much to say about football at Harrison. We could talk about the state record the Hawks have set, winning the state championships thirteen times, with nine undefeated seasons and a total of 435 total wins. We could talk about the honors the program has received, Grubber Pride, other Dome appearances, and lopsided scores. We could talk of the passing game, football classes for moms, pancake suppers, double practice days, Sunday morning game reviews, and former Hawks who have gone on to play in college and professional football.



*Harrison players who made the NFL:*

- Ben Bojic
- Ricky Bryant (Superbowl 39)
- Aaron Burbridge
- Mill Coleman
- Mark Dell
- Devin Funchess
- John Miller
- Mario Ojemudia
- Paul Rogind
- Drew Stanton
- Nick Williams

There's no doubt that the Hawks are all about winning, but the meaning of football at Harrison is about much more: integrity, hard work, friendship, and becoming the best a person can be, on and off the playing field.

# Other Fall Sports

Fall sports at Harrison begin almost the moment school begins. In addition to football, guys can enjoy tennis, soccer, and cross country. Girls can pursue volleyball, swimming, cross country, golf, field hockey, and cheerleading.



Why do so many HHS students participate in sports? Quite simply, opportunity. Harrison's athletes, both young men and women, have the opportunity:

- To participate in a variety of athletic activities at three levels.

- To experience a rewarding relationship with a dedicated and talented coach.

- To know what it means to lose oneself in becoming part of a team.

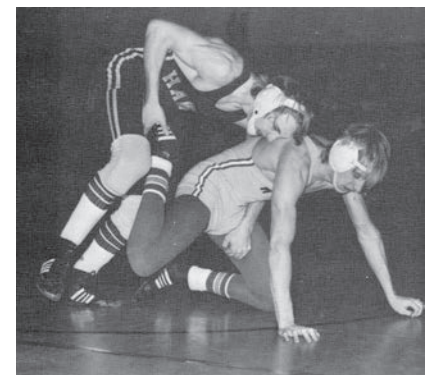
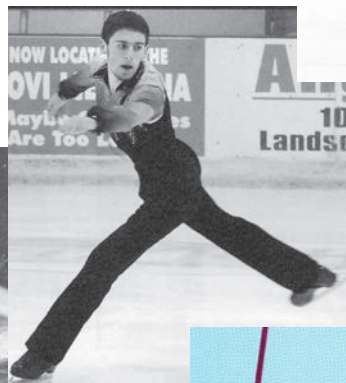
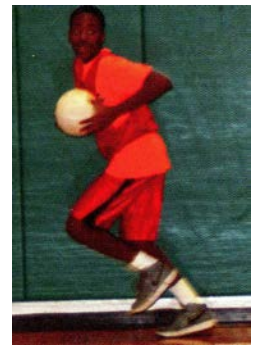
- To make sacrifices of time, ego, and physical comfort to achieve a goal.

- To understand the connection between practice and performance.

- To find lifelong satisfaction in healthy physical recreation.



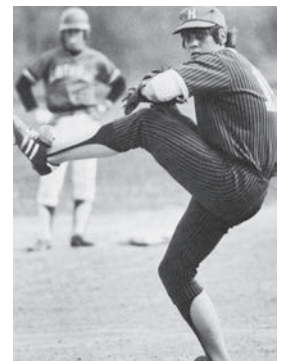
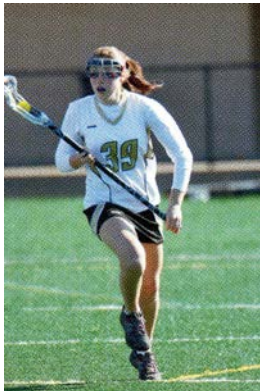
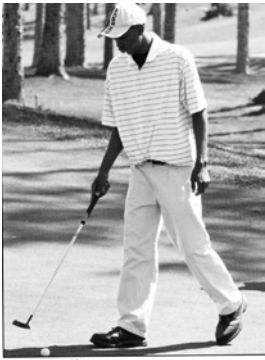
Winter weather does nothing to dampen our enthusiasm for sports at HHS. Boys' winter sports include basketball, hockey, swimming, and wrestling, while girls' include basketball, gymnastics, poms, and competitive cheerleading. In recent years, "unified" teams in some sports have allowed students increased opportunities as they join with their counterparts at Farmington and North Farmington to form district teams.



Two other important aspects of Harrison's athletic tradition are the IBA program and the work of the cheerleaders and pommers. Some of the greatest fun of all is had by students participating in the intramural basketball program, slamming down the court in the winter evenings. The cheerleaders and pom-pom girls of today are athletes in their own right. Just watch the athleticism apparent in the complexity of their jumps and precision of their movements, the result of dedication, skill, and practice. Cheerleaders and pommers— they're part of the reason why we love sports at Harrison.

# Spring Sports

As the weather warms, you'll find the guys participating in baseball, tennis, lacrosse, golf, and track. For girls, it's tennis, softball, lacrosse, soccer, and track. And so, the school year ends as well as begins with traditionally successful teams, and an abundance of skilled athletes.

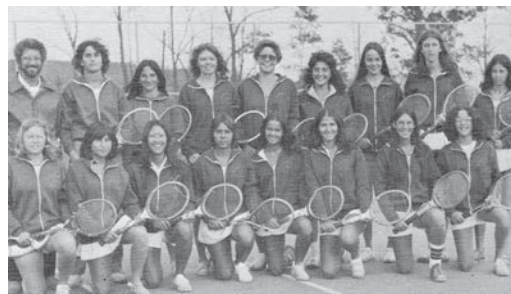


Participation in sports does not prevent academic excellence. In fact, with eligibility requirements and coaches who care passionately about their students, athletic competition can actually enhance academic performance. Take the following slice of Harrison sports history: the 1997 Girls' Basketball Team, the 2000 Girls' Tennis Team, the 2002 Girls' Soccer Team, and the 2002 Girls' Golf Team all received Academic All-State Awards; the 1998 Football Team received honorable mention as an Academic All-State Team, and the 2002 Boys' Golf Team also achieved academic honors.

Harrison's most memorable motto— Harrison: Where Champions are Made and Success is a Tradition— began with the football team and has happily pervaded many other areas. Harrison's first undefeated team, however, was actually the 1975 Girls' Tennis Team, beginning a long tradition of athletic achievement.

Since then, the football team has been in the semi-finals and finals 19 times, winning state championships in 1981, 1982, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2010— and setting a state record. John Herrington is the winningest coach in state history, and Harrison was the only school in Michigan to be included in the Nike Corporation's list of the top 50 football programs in the country.

Hawks can also boast of other sports with state championships in their history: the Boys' Track Team has been State Champions in 2001, 2002, 2003, and the Pom-pom team won its own state championship in 2007. In addition, the Boys' Baseball Team has been to the state semi-finals twice, the Boys' Soccer Team has been there once, and Harrison boasts numerous league championships in a variety of sports.



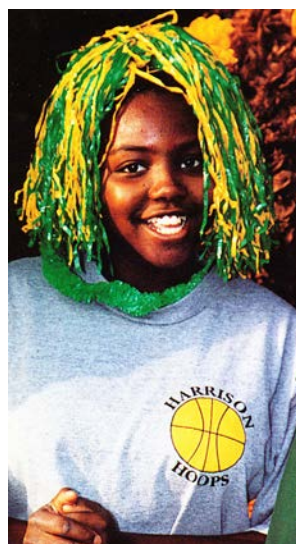
Our coaches have been honored, as well. John Schumacher received the district's Ron Holland Award in 2001, John Reed was recognized as the Division 2 Track Coach of the Year in 2002, and Dave Thorne was voted JV Assistant Coach of the Year in 2005.

John Herrington's brilliance as a coach has been recognized, as it should be, on many occasions. Herrington has received the Michigan High School Athletic Association Coach of the Year multiple times. He received the *Detroit Free Press* All-State Coach of the Year in 1998, has been inducted into the Michigan and National High School Coaches Hall of Fame, and was given the Duffy Daugherty Award in 2005 for his contributions to high school football.

Champions are made and success is a tradition, thanks to the hard work of our athletes and their gifted coaches.

# Traditions

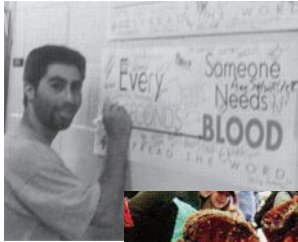
Traditions are the memories we make at Harrison beyond the classroom walls and, often, they're engraved upon our hearts. Green and Gold Day begins the year of traditions in August, christening the football season with picture-taking and celebrations. A few weeks later, Spirit Week, one of Harrison's most beloved rituals, begins. Each day represents a theme, reflected in the way students and staff dress. The Powder Puff Football Game is a perennial favorite, as is Field Day where, for over thirty years, classes competed against each other and the faculty in a series of contests that included the egg toss, tug of war, and wheelchair race.



The Homecoming Parade— where the marching band, students, and floats made by classes and clubs wound through the Kimberly sub— was a favorite. Tailgating precedes the Homecoming Game, and excitement is in the air for the presentation of the Homecoming Court and Queen. The Homecoming Dance is a stylish ending to a very special week.



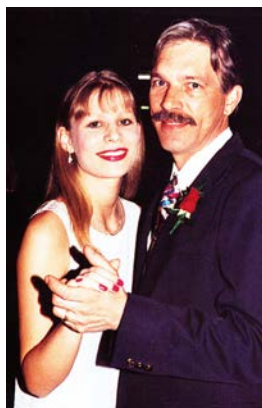
The Talent Show is one of our most beloved traditions. Each year, Harrison students strut their stuff, singing, dancing, performing skits— and the crowd goes wild! With a student emcee, and for the last several years with a faculty act included, it's an annual SRO audience, and one more testament to the real talents of our school.



The winter blahs are easy to chase away at Harrison, thanks to the Winter Carnival sponsored by RAGE. —Broomball, anyone? Mardi Gras is a celebration of culture and fun, and the annual Blood Drive and Charity Week show at HHS we know how to give back. MORP (think PROM backwards) provides a different approach to dancing the night away.

# Traditions

Spring brings the Prom Fashion Show, as well as the special rituals of senior year. By the time AP students take their exams and seniors mark Senior Skip Day on their calendars, the end of their time at Harrison can be counted in days. Several activities mark this passage. For almost three decades, the Father Daughter Dinner Dance was the most special of evenings for dads and their daughters, celebrating that heartfelt bond. Academic achievements of seniors, as well as their college scholarship honors, are recognized at Harrison's annual Honors Night.



The last day of school often means graduation practice and the distribution of caps and gowns, followed by the Senior Barbecue, hosted by the administration. The official farewell from the school is Swing-Out, a wonderful combination of serious recognition of achievement and lighthearted celebration. The Senior Prom is often held on the same day or close to Swing-Out, and is a night of elegance and elation, as seniors celebrate at luxurious venues.

Graduation Day, usually the second Sunday in June, has been held at the Ford Auditorium, the Chrysler Arena, and the Compuware Arena. This ceremony, accomplished with solemn dignity, is one of life's true milestones. Afterwards, one last event awaits seniors—the All Night Party—when the gym is transformed by parents into a giant playing field for Hawks who want just one more time together before saying good-bye.



Some of our HHS traditions are as old as the school. Others reflect the spirit of Hawks during a particular time. Either way, our Harrison traditions weave us together as the years go on, and set our identity as Hawks even more deeply in our minds and souls.

Harrison is definitely the home of achievers. If you haven't done so yet, page through this magazine to learn about our successes in science, math, athletics, dance, and music. Then confirm them with the following very partial lists:

## *Student Achievements*

- The vast majority of our students choose college upon graduation: Harrison alumni attend all levels of colleges and universities, including Harvard, Cornell, MIT, Johns Hopkins, West Point, UCLA, Cal Tech, Spellman, University of Michigan, Michigan State, Albion, etc. Each year, substantial scholarships are offered to Harrison students, topping over \$8 million for the class of 2018.
- Over the years, Harrison's RoboHawk Team has won national acclaim, beginning with the national Rookie All-Stars in the 1997 FIRST competition and taking national firsts in 1999 and 2007. Not to be overlooked is the 1996 achievement of Harrison students as they took first place in the United States in the National TEAMS (Tests in Engineering Aptitude in Math and Science) competition.
- DECA is a national student organization which prepares emerging leaders in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. At DECA's International Career Development Conference, Harrison had a record-breaking win with an all-time high 5 medals and at the international competition, Harrison's team placed in the top 10 among 7 countries and over 18,000 competitors.
- NEWSWEEK magazine has repeatedly cited Harrison as one of the top 5% of schools in the nation, based on the percentage of graduating seniors taking Advanced Placement tests.
- Harrison has always acknowledged academic departmental honors, and the Light of Knowledge Award for excellence in both the arts and the sciences. In 2009 Harrison deemed it important to honor the outstanding academic achievements of its graduates, just as they have their outstanding athletes. Thus, the Academic Hall of Fame was born. Graduates must attain 3 of the following 4 requirements: achieve a cumulative 4.0 GPA, be named a National Merit Scholar commended or semi-finalist student, obtain a score of 34 or higher on the ACT or 1520 or higher on the SAT, be an AP scholar or IB Diploma Student who has attained high scores on AP or IB exams. Since then, just 18 students have met the extremely rigorous criteria.
- At Harrison we're aware, however, that achievement can be measured in a number of ways. Two prime examples

are the accomplishments of our bilingual students who achieve success in a language and culture foreign to them, as well as the progress of our special education students, so significant that families actually move to the district to receive our services.



## *Alumni Achievements*

Our graduates continue to succeed once they leave us, and our list of achievements wouldn't be complete without including our alumni and their accomplishments. HHS grads include a Pulitzer Prize Winner in Investigative Journalism; the co-creator of *The Simpsons*; the general manager of a major market radio station; the CEO of a kibbutz in Israel, a New York literary agent, an innkeeper, an international banker, and a highly-placed auto executive. They achieve in the arts, business, communications, education, engineering, government, law, medicine, and sports. In Michigan and around the globe, thousands of our graduates lead productive, healthy lives, raising families, serving in the military, working at jobs of all sorts, exercising their rights and responsibilities as good citizens, and making significant contributions to our nation and our world.

## *Staff Achievements*

A significant reason for our success has been dedicated faculty members. In annual alumni surveys, almost 100% of Harrison grads report there was a special teacher who cared about them and made a real difference. Our staff has been exceptional—and diverse, including individuals of varied backgrounds, cultures, races, and experiences. Some came to us from careers in business and industry. All continue to make professional growth a priority, and most have master’s degrees. Here are a few who have attained special recognition:

### *Farmington Secondary School Teachers of the Year*

1991	Mary Brown	1993	Katherine Nyberg	1994	William Harmon
1998	Laura Sparrow	1999	Ellie Case	2000	Sue Schultz
2005	Angela Leach	2011	Kevin Miesner	2012	Kimmi Dukes
2014	Lisa Dean	2015	Steve Dail	2016	Patricia Torres

### *WDIV Oakland County Teachers of the Year*

1993	Katherine Nyberg	1998	Laura Sparrow
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### *Oakland Counselor Association Counselor of the Year*

2013	Teresa Traverso	2017	Amy Proctor
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### *State and National Award Winners*

1986	Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame Inductee	John Herrington
1990	Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame Inductee	Bob Sutter
1992	U.S. Department of Education Christa McAuliffe Fellowship	Mary Brown
1992	National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship	Laura Sparrow
1994	Michigan Secondary Foreign Language Teacher of the Year	Pierette Simpson
1997	Michigan Art Educator of the Year	Bill Harmon
1998	Michigan Outstanding Biology Teacher of the Year	Joyce Tomlinson
1999	Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame Inductee	John Witkowski
2001	National High School Football Coach of the Year	John Herrington
2004	Michigan Dance Teacher of the Year	Toi Banks
2007	FPS Support Person of the Year	Laura Rickert
2008	Finalist for Michigan Support Person of the Year	Linda Stockton
2016	Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame Inductee	Ron Brown
2016	FPS Support Person of the Year	Susan Groenenbloom
2018	Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame Inductee	Dave Thorne

### *Impact Teachers, chosen each year by seniors, as having the most impact on their growth*

1998	Roy Lewis	1999	Tim Russell	2000	Sue Schultz
2001	Steve Dail	2002	Tony Leonardo	2003	Greg Drozdowski
2004	Kathy Folske	2005	Angela Leach	2005	Pete Lamerato
2006	Katerina Gadjev	2007	Pat Torres	2008	Kimmi Dukes
2009	Rory Crittenden	2010	Pat Torres	2011	Pete Lamerato
2011	Katrina Gadjev	2012	Allyson Robiunson	2012	Tim Russell
2013	Kevin Miesner	2013	Tony Leonardo	2014	Kimmi Dukes
2015	Jeremy Robinson	2016	Tony Leonardo	2017	Katie Gabrielli
2018	Jeremy Robinson				

# Harrison High School Staff

When Harrison opened its doors in the fall of 1970, its staff of 80 was an admittedly strange assortment of teachers. About half of them were veteran educators, many of whom had taught at Cooley High School in Detroit and followed their principal, Lewis Schulman, to Harrison. The others were mostly rookies, many of them with less than five years of teaching experience. In the decades since, hundreds of caring professionals have educated students with all kinds of interests and abilities who came not just from Farmington, but from around the world. Perhaps this list will remind you of teachers who made you feel you mattered and who helped you to find a good direction in your life.

## *Art*

Scott Brazeau, Grace Campbell, Kimmi Dukes, Cecilia Gable, Bill Harmon, Barb Horowitz, Bobby Kelly, Tony Leonardo, Jessica Moffat, Valeria Petrini, Sarah Rozdilski, Trudy Mancini Talan, Linda Ulrich, Melinda Wilcox

## *Career Technical Education*

Diane Bageris, Mary Jo Balcer, Don Batten, Paul Bennett, Judy Brankel, Janet Cadeau, Kathy Blaske Chrzanowski, Jim Costie, Dick Caton, Kathy Blaske Chrzanowski, Cheryl Conn-Oiler, Bob Finzel, Robert Francis, Donna Frazer, Bob Gagniuik, D. Gasiior, Mary Kay Gripton, Chris Grzegorzcyk, Kathy Gugni, Alvina Harvey, Russell Harvey, Abbey Houser, Sue Haun, Marcie Rose Hornyak, Joan Jamo, Anita Kurche, Sue Kryzkowski, Teresa LaChance, Jennifer Larger, Cindy LaRose, Joe Lazzarino, Dorothy Lindquist, Gloria MacDonald, Carolyn McMahon, Abby Mencotti, Nina Merget, Judy Miller, Joette Morden, Richard Northrup, Crystal Nowka, Charlene Parrott, Bill Pratt, Nicole Rogers, Floyd Ross, Mayna Schumacher, Dana Shipan, Dolores Shevlin, Heidi Skodack, Jeff Slabaugh, Annie Springer, James Stuef, Harry Swystun, James Tarvernitt, Michael Wolscheleger

## *Counseling*

Ann Areeda, Polly Bachrouche, Ann Blanzzy, Harold Edsall, Jeanette Fox, Jaimie Gibbons, Bob Hickox, Jennifer Kowalski, Lynn Levin, Elisa Maher, Dave Poelke, Diane Pomish, Amy Proctor, Nancy Rollinson, Tina Shoemacher, Gerald Sklare, John Summerlee, Teresa Traverso, Jill Turley, Margaret VanAmejde, Jim Wood

## *English*

Troi Abner, Diane Akers, Carla Barrett, Mollie Brenda, Gayann Brook, Mary Brown, Trisha Bouts, Kristy Buttermore, Bill Clair, Katerina Gadjev-Druin, Barb Haas Dubb, Dick Dubuque, Debbie Eason, Bonnie Felton, Margaret Ferguson, John Fleck, Amy Frontier, Martha Garnett, Jeannie Young Glowacki, Michael Griffie, Marge Hainsworth, Elontra Hall, Lisa Hansen, Michelle Harris, Kristy Higgs, Lisa Hoffman, Cindy Kallas, Joyce Kaplan, Lauren Keur, Sandy Dawson Smalley King Knight, Lucy Koviak, Lauren Kozak, Lenore Libby, Kathy Maisner, Suzan Milenkovich, Lindsey Murphy, Kathy Nyberg, Chris O'Brien, Sheryl Perlmutter, Kristina Guilfoyle Pittman, Despina Poniris, Jessica Read, Kristy Renaud, Allyson Holman Robinson, Peggy Rosbolt, Stacey Rosol, Tim Russell, Becky Ryan, Shana Saddler, Jennifer Erin Saxsma, Betty Martin Shortt, Joyce Spletzer, Laura Sparrow, John Stafiej, Charlie Stambouljian, Vivian Stuck, Matt Turney, Mike Vial, Jonathan White, Jesse Wick

## *English Language Learner*

Rania Attisha, Stephanie Belcher, Kristy Buttermore, Emily Cheung, Yoshiko Gingerich, Jemil Meti, Frank Ivezaj, Luke Juncaj, Laura Kakarriqi, Rola Masri, Roxane Mecham, Alejandra Mueller, Pam Sofferin, Rashmi Wadehra

## *Global Languages*

Pamela Barber, Louise Ciacco, Courtney Colpan, Nick Fawaz, Betsy George, Althea Gurabardhi, Miriam Hall, Mary Harmala, Janet Harris, Vadia Hermez, Chris Hosman, Jennifer Hoyle, Julie Hurst, Melissa King, Maimu Looke, Martha Mathison-Monson, Liz Miller, Dalia Omar, Lauren O'Neil, Donna Petrini, Charmaine Ragusa, Nancy Roma, Rebecca Hertzig Rose, Shana Saddler, Maria Schneider, Barrie Schoessel, Pierette Orlich Simpson, Pam Stanizewski, Theresa Stevens, Ninfa Toffanetti, Carlos Torres, Pat Torres, Debbie Tweedie, Mary Walden, Hayley Wank, Liz Lebovic Winokur

## *International Baccalaureate*

Melissa Chapman, Carole Clifford, Courtney Colpan, Steve Dail, Lisa Dean, Kimmi Dukes, Katie Gabrielli, Katerina Gadjev-Drouin, Dan Gardner, Elizabeth George, Lauren Keur, Jen Kowalski, Pete Lamerato, Kevin Miesner,

***International Baccalaureate (cont.)***

Elizabeth Kay Miller, Dalia Omar, Vicki Palmer, Tim Russell, Erin Saxsma, Stacey Schildberg, Christine Sweet, Christine Trent, Michael Wolschleger

***Math***

Roy Birmingham, Walt Boluch, Melissa Chapman, Kathy Chiasson, Carole Clifford, Marilyn Cook, Mr. Fay, Stefanie Fendrick, Ashley Filpula, Cherylinn Golden, Linda George, Susan Justice, Laura Kakarriqi, Dee Lacy, Emily Landis, Linda Lanigan, Sharida Lewis, Joe Ludwig, Norm Luebke, Laura Miner Kors, Dyron McCoy, Sandra Nemode McGrath, Becca McGuire, Matt McGuire, Chuck Mullen, Bridget Murphy, Andre Poux, Shantel Ross, Monica Price, Sara Roessler, Valada Richardson Sargent, Lori Schamp, Bob Schultz, Sue Kanaby Schultz, Jeanette Schwartz, Ron Shortt, Rich Strausz, Kathy Folske Surd, Christine Sweet, Mike Teachman, Louise Lewis Tsatsanifos

***Media***

Carla Barrett, Nancy Hall, Verla Kennedy, Barbara Kull, Dawn Spinner, Stacey Strauch, Bridget Sturdy, Jean Thomas, Cynthia Zervos

***Music***

Julie Anderson, Peggy Babcock, Paul Barber, Jan Brachel, Jeannie Benson, Bill Feucht, Sheri Jaffurs, Margaret Koltz, Joan Mackenzie, Kim Marlinga, Mark Phillips, Tom Schroeder, Maurie Wildt, Joel Yoeder

***Physical Education***

Mark Babcock, Beverly Bain, Toi Banks, Morris Borders, Chip Bridges, Steve Gangler, Katie Gabrielli, Mark Holdridge, Irv Horowitz, Jeff Kowalewski, Timothy Micklash, Cassidy Munger, Stacy Punzal, Bill Rankin, Sondra Rivers, Bob Sallow, Sara Smigell, Anne Marie Mazur Sopha, Bob Sutter, Carlos Torres, Kristen Zabalavicus

***Science***

Clint Allen, Dennis Berrill, Kristina Broz Confer, Rory Crittenden, Sharon Crupi, Steve Dail, Beth Guensel DiPonio, Ken Duma, Amy Eversole, Larry Fortner, Laura Bozaan Hayden, Sharon Higham, Sondra Ilnicki, Rick Jahn, Todd Kammer, Denny King, Alice Drake Lashbrook, Kevin Lashbrook, Roy Lewis, Kevin Meisner, Norb Musto, Dave Poelke, Michelle Raphael, Staci Schildberg, John Schumacher, Tom Shalla, Kathy Suchyta, Joyce Tomlinson

***Social Studies***

Jenny Barto, Kara Beal, Staci Bernstein, Chip Bridges, Dominic Carino, Nicole Cato, Emerson Coates, Eden Collins, Courtney Colpan, Tom Evans, Nicole Frisby, Dan Gardner, Bernie Goldstein, Amy Hermon, John Herrington, Ani Kasparian, Lee DiMaio Hickox, Tony Imbronone, Luke Juncaj, Kyle Kinyon, Lucy Koviak, John Lanzetta, Pete Lamerato, Angela Leach, Jim McKee, Ray Naglik, Fred Niemiec, Caryn Ramirez, Bill Rankin, Jeremy Robinson, Teresa Rogers, Jim Shaw, Susan Sahlstrom, Dick Steele, Phil Stopke, Eva Swenarton, Richard Tyler, Ray Voss, Phil Washington, Marci Weingarden

***Special Education***

Claire Albertson, Ryan Beauchamp, Ellen Becker, Jan Birkett, Doug Brzak, Ellie Case, Barb Cherem, Dick Cook, Louise Cotton, Carey Crudgington, Peg Culver, Amy Daliege, Bryan Dean, Darcy Dombrowski, Greg Drozdowski, George Gagniuik, Bob Gorgas, Nancy Gorgas, Steve Hawkins, Michelle Hayes, Tracye Henderson, Joyce Herman, Judy Hernandez, Jon Hertstein, JoAnn Hickock, Herb James, Eric Johnson, Audrey Jones, Mike Kelly, Chandra Kothari, Bob Kovar, Tim Latray, Rebecca Lee, Christine Lenardson, Lynn Levin, Judy McKinnon, Amy McConville, Jill Merriman, Val Mierzwa, Pat Milstead, Jennifer Montes, Jill Morrison, Amanda Mulcahy, Charles Nachtrab, Barb Pare, Tahnee Passmore, Angie Peresky, Pat Plansek, Wendy Poelke, John Reed, Connie Rubino, Dan Schneider, James Schreuder, Heather Schultz, Carol Sethi, Connie Shott, Serena Shunia, Lee Simmer, Pete Solar, Candy Spadafore, Elizabeth Stamos, Amy Stropich, Gail Tenorio, Dave Thorne, Mike Todorov, Kitty Unangst, Wendy Warren, Kitty Wheelock, Charlene Wolson, Les Zalewski, Debbie Zazaian

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## Saying Goodbye to Our Harrison Home

Contrary to what most adults remember, being a teenager isn't easy at all. Adolescence is a time of clinging to the comfortable, while reaching for the stars. It's a time of leaving a family home and finding new homes in new places. Poet Christian Morgenstern reminds us that "Home is not where you live, but where they understand you." For nearly fifty years, Harrison High School has offered the understanding and acceptance of home to many, many kinds of students. It's been a home for artists and athletes, scholars and skaters, geeks and Goths, teachers' pets and teachers' pests!

Indeed, Harrison has become extremely good at diversity of every kind, including differences of religion or race, origins or economics, abilities or interests. For us, living in a school community that was nearly a microcosm of the nation as a whole became a fact of life— and one we will always treasure. Individuality of all kinds has thrived at Harrison, and we could see it whenever we looked along a hallway full of kids of every color, every language, and every style.

The larger world may be filled with strife, but our little community has been full of profoundly decent kids and the loving adults who taught them, laughed with them, cried with them, and then sent them out to do their part to give the world better news.

In spite of all the pressures on education today, Harrison has always been a remarkable place and a beacon of hope. Our hearts indeed found a home in Harrison, and we are very, very sad to say good-bye. But although we travel far and away, we come back to its lessons, again and again. We are— and we remain— Harrison Hawks.



### *Thanks and Apologies*

Almost five decades is a long time, and those of us who've been a part of this amazing school have accumulated a storehouse of wonderful memories. The RETROSPECT has provided memorable images to help us capture the essence of our green and gold, and Angela Leach has been invaluable in updating information and providing photos, and we are grateful to both. We have tried to be inclusive and accurate in telling the story of Harrison High School. Undoubtedly, however, we've made errors, and for that, we apologize.

*Mary Brown and Laura Sparrow*

# *Congratulations Harrison!!!*

*The Farmington Education Association  
salutes the staff, students, and families of the  
Harrison High School community.*

*Thank you for contributing to such a  
spectacular part of history in our community.*

*The FEA will always treasure the  
wonderful legacy that so many of you built  
over the years.*

*Always and forevermore,*

*Go Hawks!!!*



*The Farmington Education Association*

It is up to us  
to live up to the legacy  
that was left for us,  
and  
to leave a legacy  
that is worthy of our children  
and of future generations.

~ Christine Gregoire ~



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# Harrison Legacy

We would like to thank all the people, clubs, groups and teams that have worked with us over the past 19 years.

We have created and supplied T-shirts, sweats, hoodies as well as other items over the years to the students and staff.

My staff and myself wish good will and great moments to all the staff and students as they move forward

*(Showing some of the many designs we have printed thru the years)*



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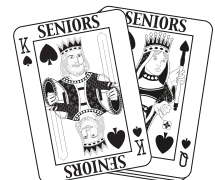
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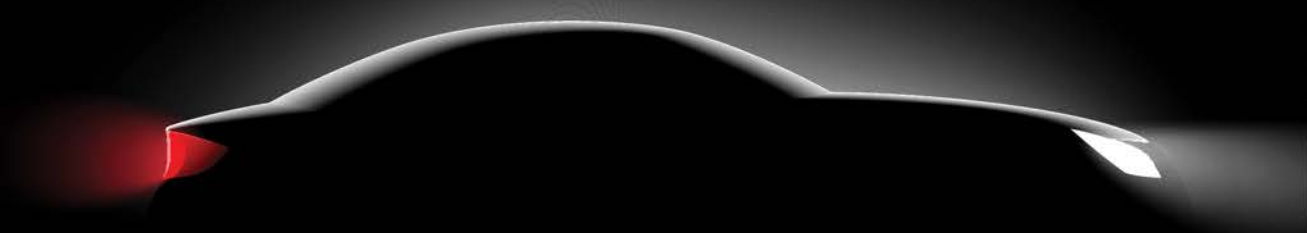
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*~ Marwa Collins ~*



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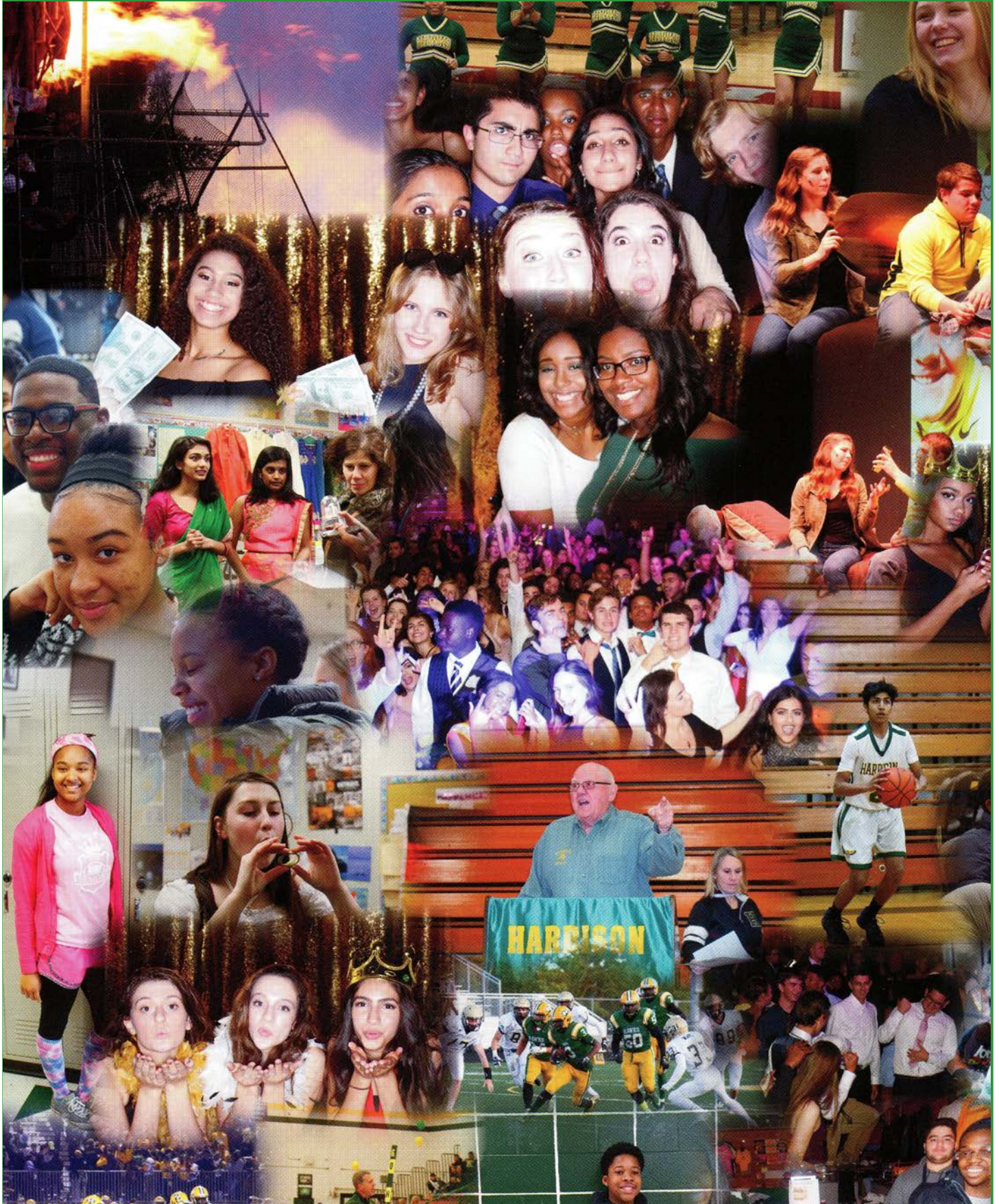
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Do you remember Harrison and . . .

\*Your first day as a frightened freshman \*Dashing out to lunch and trying to get back on time \*The Student Code of Conduct \*When everyone at Harrison looked alike \*Joining a clique and outgrowing it \*Prom limos \*Going to Cedar Point with the Physics class, or to Stratford with an AP class \*Working on a Homecoming float \*MEAP Testing \*The smell of French fries \*Having a crush on a teacher \*Delayed starts \*Breaking up with a boyfriend or girlfriend \*IBA \*Serving detention \*Realizing that freshman year grades did count in your GPA \*When gym classes weren't co-ed \*Skipping \*Buying candy at the school store \*Senior Trip \*Coming up from a stairwell and not knowing where you were \*Senior Wills \*Prom Fashion Show \*LINK Crew \*Classrooms with no windows \*Taking swimming \*Worrying about your skin, hair, body \*Cell phones \*Field Day wheelchair races and egg tosses \*Waiting to buy food in the cafeteria line \*Parking passes \*Obsessing about being popular \*Lip Dub \*Falling in love for the first time \*Picture Day \*Forgetting your locker combination \*Band Camp \*Deleting a PhoneMaster message from the school \*Hall passes \*Getting your yearbook signed \*Mock elections \*The sound of laughter drifting down the halls \*Snow Days \*When you could get a pop from a machine any time of day \*Junior Formal \*Floors that vibrated when the band practiced \*Passing notes in class \*Being sent to the Planning Room \*Smoking in a stairwell \*Research Papers \*Hanging out on the patio \*Fights \*Reading the latest Catalyst \*Pep Assemblies \*Taking ten minutes to get to your next class, right down the hall \*College Night \*ACTs & SATs \*Morning Announcements \*Freezing or frying in class \*Goodfellows' Canned Food Drive \*Charity Week \*Torturing substitute teachers \*Letter jackets \*Final Exam Week \*Bagel Sales \*Dances in the gym and cafeteria that shook the walls \*Getting a good grade from a respected teacher \*Learning who you really were \*Realizing that a teacher or coach believed in you and thinking that maybe, just maybe, you were ready to make it in this world?

*Then welcome back to Harrison's Legacy Celebration . . .*

***Once a Hawk, Always a Hawk!***