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1970 - 2019

Leaving our Legacy

Celebrating Harrison High School

Special Insert



So, after all the years, after more than 13,000 students and 98 semesters, on June 14, 2019, we will say good-bye. As we do, we will 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.**

Quick Facts

- Harrison High School was named after Gerald Harrison - Principal of Farmington Junior-Senior High School, who became Superintendent in 1957.
- More than 54 clubs available to students over the years.
- The IB Programme housed at Harrison High School earned its authorization as an International Baccalaureate World School in 2013.
- Hawks came from all over the world, with 77 languages spoken over the years. The Newcomer Center was established in 1996.
- Our celebrated "Buddies Program" allows general ed students to work with students with special needs impacting all in a positive way.

Principals

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

Lewis Schulman – 1970 - 1973
James Geiger – 1973 - 1984
Clayton Graham – 1984 - 1993
Rande Horn – 1993 - 2005
Sulura Jackson – 2005 - Jan. 2006
Jim Myers – 2006 - 2008
Aaron Johnson – 2008 - 2013
Lawrence Stroughter – 2013 - 2016
James Anderson – 2016 - Feb. 2019
Christopher O'Brien – 2019 - present

Assistant Principals/ Administrative Interns

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

Jerry Allison	Dee Lacy
Robert Anderson	Angela Leach
Cathryn Armstrong	Dennis Noe
Alton Bennett	Christopher O'Brien
Dave Beazley	Dave Poelke
Mary Brown	David Reese
Jack Buller	Allyson Robinson
Paul Cassatta	Lydia Runkel
Will Chaisson	Bill Smith
Lisa Dean	John Summerlee
Norm Dickson	Bob Wilson

Harrison's Legacy

Nurturing Excellence

Excellence can be achieved, in the classroom and on the stage or playing field.

Reaching All Learners

All students can succeed, if we're determined enough.

Honoring Tradition

Tradition has power to connect and uplift us.

Inspiring Innovation

Innovation is necessary as we prepare kids for the future.

Creating Community

Community, both within Harrison and out in the world, enriches us all.

Farmington
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Once a Hawk, Always a Hawk

1970s

Home of the Initiators

The first decade of life at Harrison meant beginnings—of all sorts. The 70s were indeed a time to both create and improvise. In September of 1970, approximately 1,100 ninth, tenth, and eleventh 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 the “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.

1972 - Harrison has its first graduating class and becomes a four-year high school.

1974 - Girls can now play varsity sports AND the first Advanced Placement course is offered.

Do you remember?

When Harrison was a three-year high school • When female teachers wore short skirts • 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 • The loss to Midland Dow in the Hawks' first Silverdome appearance • When the boys' track team made the state finals • Reading Improvement with the tachistoscope • The only teacher strike in Farmington's history • The Ping Pong Club • Harrison's own WYME radio

1980s

Home of the Builders

With a solid foundation in place, Harrison's students and staff were positioned for success in the 80s. As the decade began, Harrison 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.”

1981 - The Harrison Football Team wins its first state championship.

1989 - The Academic Letter Award Program is initiated.

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



State
Football
Championships
**1981, 1982,
1988, 1989**

1990s

Home of the Achievers

The 90s 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.

1996 - Harrison takes first place in the National TEAMS competition.

1999 - The Student Assistance Program begins; school and athletic facilities are renovated.

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

State
Football
Championships
**1991, 1993,
1994, 1997, 1998,
1999, 2000**

State
Marching Band
Championships
**1991, 1992,
1993, 1996,
1999**





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Saying Goodbye to Our Harrison Home

2000-2009

Home of the Innovators

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. 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 12-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.

2003 - RoboHawks take a national championship in Advanced Robotics.

2005 - Charity Week is initiated, with the first annual “lock in” for charity.

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 participate • Charity Week • Evening for the Arts • When the Poms won first place at the Mid-America State Championship at EMU

State Football Championships
2001, 2010

State Track Championships
2001, 2002, 2003

State Poms Championships
2007

State Marching Band Championships
2001

2010-2019

Home of All Hawks

“At Harrison, there’s a place for everyone.” Perhaps these words 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.

2010 - The Academic Hall of Fame is instituted, honoring outstanding academic achievements.

2011 - The International Baccalaureate Program begins.

2017 - John Herrington named the Winningest Coach in Michigan high school football.

2018 - The DECA Team places in the top 10 in international competition.

2019 - The last day of school is June 14, 2019.

Do you remember?
International Night • Winter Spirit Week • The Dominican Trip • Charity Week • Communication Camp • Pink Out • HOSA • Hawk Help • Building... Honor, Achievements, Work-Ethic, Knowledge, Success...through Relationships

State Bowling Championships
2019

Farmington United Gymnastics State Championships
2018, 2019



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 50 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.

In addition to these state championships, Harrison students have achieved in many areas. “The Catalyst” received second place in a national competition • Harrison’s Dance Company was named Michigan’s Top Dance Program and was one of 10 groups nationally invited to perform at the National Dance Education Organization conference • *Newsweek* repeatedly cited Harrison as one of the top five percent of schools in the nation. • Harrison boasts numerous league championships in a variety of sports, and several teams have received Academic All-State awards. • 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 more than 10 years. Harrison also has offered a rich extracurricular experience for students.

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!

Staff Achievements

A significant reason for our success has been dedicated faculty members. In annual alumni surveys, almost 100 percent 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. Here are a few who have attained special recognition:

Harrison High 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 Groenenboom
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	2006	Katerina Gadjev	2013	Kevin Miesner
1999	Tim Russell	2007	Patricia Torres	2014	Jeremy Robinson
2000	Sue Schultz	2008	Kimmi Dukes	2015	Theresa LaChance
2001	Steve Dail	2009	Rory Crittenden	2016	Liz Miller
2002	Tony Leonardo	2010	Patricia Torres	2017	Katie Gabrielli
2003	Greg Drozdowski	2011	Amy Proctor Mantyla	2018	Jeremy Robinson
2004	Kathy Folske	2012	Allyson Robinson	2019	Kevin Miesner
2005	Angela Leach				
	Pete Lamerato				



Harrison High School transitions to Farmington Hills Community Center

Planning and design continue for the repurposing of HHS to the Farmington Hills Community Center. The Community Center and park will provide a hub for residents and guests of all ages, interests and abilities to enjoy drama, music, visual and performing arts, aquatics, athletics, fitness and wellness, along with many other programs, classes, camps, and special events.

The City expects to complete design in July 2019 and begin construction in October 2019. Construction completion and owner occupancy is targeted for the Fall of 2020. Please visit www.fhgov.com for updates.

The renderings below were from a design update to City Council on May 13 and are not final.

