

## **Duncan Polytechnical High School**

This school is located at 4330 East Garland. It first appeared in the Fresno Unified School District directory in 1959-60 as Sierra Junior High School, and originally served grades 7 through 9. For a period of time, the school housed only 9th grade students and was called Sierra Freshman School.

The school site was initially named for our Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east of Fresno. Sierra is a descriptive name for "mountain range" frequently used in Spanish times in California and elsewhere and gradually applied in our state only to the mountain ranges to the east of the great central valley of California.

The school site was renamed to Erma Duncan Polytechnical High School in early 1980's. The curriculum was changed to focus on subjects in the technical field.

Erma Duncan was the founder of Duncan Ceramics who took her interest in ceramics, and began teaching classes from her home. In 1946 she was able to open a studio where she was able to teach and create new products. Duncan Ceramics has been located in Fresno for over 70 years.