



## **History of Florida State University School/Florida High**

The Florida State University School was established in 1851 as the Florida Institute. Florida High, along with Florida State University did not become fully operational until February 7, 1857. In the beginning, Florida High was regarded as the Preparatory Department for the young teachers attending the University.

In 1905, Florida High became the Demonstration School at the Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University). The school was housed in the basement of a campus dormitory and had one teacher. The school fulfilled the need for a laboratory where prospective teachers could both observe model teaching and practice teaching under expert direction. This is still a major role of Florida State University School today.

The school officially opened its doors with kindergarten through twelfth grade in 1919, with a population of 200. The population grew and Florida High moved to a new building at the corner of Call Street and Ivy Way, which is currently the site of the School of Music. In 1930, Florida High School graduated its first senior class consisting of 11 students.

During WWII, the school was reduced to grades K-8, with upperclassmen moving to other schools. In 1950, the enrollment increased to 349, and there was growing interest in building a new facility that would again accommodate grades 9-12. The mission of the school continued to be a demonstration site for teacher education.

In 1954, a new Florida High School opened on the corner of Stadium Drive and Call Street, the site of the former FSU dairy pasture. The school mascot was a Demon from "demonstration" school. By 1958, the enrollment had reached 780 students, most of whom were children of the FSU professional staff.

In 1972, the Florida Legislature officially changed the name of the school to the Developmental Research School (DRS) to signify a change in the school's mission to include greater academic activity and research. The new DRS had 916 students, including a new nursery program with 16 students.

In 1990, the official name of the school changed once again, from Developmental Research School to The Florida State University School. The Demon mascot was replaced by the Seminole. The student population, which is demographically representative of the State of Florida, gradually increased to 1,140.

On August 24, 2000, Florida State University Schools, INC. ("FSUS Inc") and The St. Joe Company signed the Florida State University Research Charter School Student Reservation Agreement. This led to our transition to a public charter school and the construction of our campus in Southwood. On August 13, 2001, the gates to Florida State University School's new campus opened and in flew eager young minds ready to learn.

The school continues to serve as an important educational research laboratory by Florida State University faculty and students.

Whether known officially as the Demonstration School, the Developmental Research School, or The Florida State University School (FSUS), it will always be called Florida High by its alumni, students, and faculty.

As of 2002, FSUS Inc. operates as a K-12 Developmental Research Charter School, a Professional Development School, and a regional school of choice, providing a venue for educational research, curriculum innovation, educator development, and statewide reform efforts, while promoting excellent instruction for its students and projecting its continuing service mission.

*Excellence is the Standard*