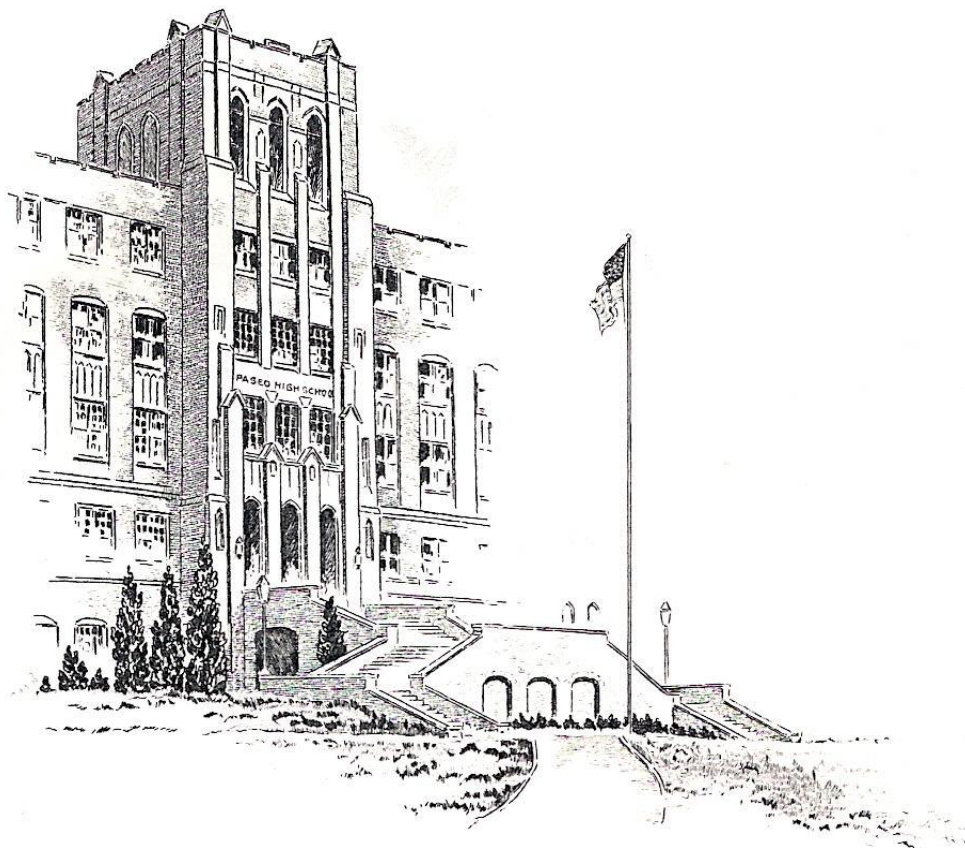


Paseo
of KANSAS CITY

***A History of Paseo High School
and
The Kansas City Missouri School District***



Produced by the Paseo Alliance ©

[Paseo Alliance website](#)

[Paseo yearbooks 1927 - 1990](#)

INTRODUCTION

On July 19, 2006, eighteen or twenty Paseo graduates, most of whom had celebrated their fiftieth high school class reunion, gathered together for lunch to discuss how to preserve the legacy of their great school that had been demolished over sixteen years prior to that luncheon meeting.

The school, a monument to progress, had been built and opened in 1926 and became a landmark in Kansas City. Sitting very high on a hill with its five stories and magnificent tower, the School could be seen for miles around. Architect Charles A. Smith considered the building one of his finest efforts, but the school came down, for all the wrong reasons.

Although their building was gone, this group of alumni decided they would never let its legacy die.

At that meeting in July, 2006, the group elected officers and were pleased that a graduate of Paseo, a retired Colonel, volunteered to act as the webmaster in order to enhance and preserve the memory of The Paseo High School.

The group that gathered that day now call themselves The Paseo Alliance. After over four years, the Alliance now hosts four social/meeting functions each year and has a state-of-the-art website that has become the standard for all high schools.

In early 2009, after a lengthy discussion, it was discovered that a history of The Paseo High School simply did not exist, so two volunteers set out to research the history of the school that has been all but lost forever. The website presently displays the beginning of the efforts of those two Paseo Alliance volunteer, novice historians.

NOTES

Within the [Paseo Alliance website](#), a section has been devoted to the publication of The [Paseo yearbooks](#) that have been collected by Alliance members but scanning is not complete at this time. You will find that all books have been scanned and contain pages of the Administration, Faculty and Senior pages. Others have been completely scanned, front to back.

This history of the Paseo High School and Kansas City School District is a work in progress so, please remember, your input with historical data, success stories and any other historical information of interest to others will be appreciated.

Please continue checking this site for additional historical data as it is prepared. The history that follows is only the beginning.

The Paseo High School



September 6, 1924, The Kansas City Star. The above picture shows the new Paseo High School in its entirety as planned by Charles A. Smith, school architect, and approved by the Board of Education. The structure will occupy a commanding site on a hill two blocks south of Electric Park at Forty-Eighth Street and the Paseo and will face west. It is to be built of stone quarried on the hill, and trimmed with cut stone. When complete it will consist of seventy classrooms, auditorium, gymnasium, swimming pool, domestic science and manual training rooms and will cost \$1,550,000. It will be five stories high, counting the basement floor.

Only a first unit of the structure will be built this year. This unit will comprise the front part of the building as shown in the picture, and the north end. It will have thirty-five class rooms, domestic science rooms and a branch library, and will cost \$850,000. The auditorium, gymnasium and other rooms will come later, as attendance demands. Bids for this first unit will be issued about November 1.

Members of the School Board say the building will eventually be one of the finest public institutions of the city. The first part, when complete in September, 1926, will relieve crowded conditions at both Central and Westport high.

David Wolfe, a 1955 Paseo High School Graduate, acquired this certified original architectural rendering in his Antique store. He presented it to the Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts in 2005, during his 50th Class Reunion activities. In the time period when the Paseo High School was constructed, architects used an artist medium referred to as Gouache, a thick watercolor, for painting the detail in their architectural presentations.

CHARLES ASHLEY SMITH

Architect

1867-1948

Charles A. Smith played an important role as a Kansas City architect from 1887 until his death in 1948 at the age of 81. He was the official architect to the Kansas City School Board from 1898 until his retirement from the position in 1936, during the most prolific time of school expansion and building in the District.

Paseo High School is one of many schools in Kansas City which Smith designed. Smith's original 1924 architectural rendering of the Paseo High School hangs in the front foyer of the Paseo Academy of Fine Arts.



Smith was born in Steubenville, Ohio on March 22, 1866. At age 16, following a public school education, he started working with the architectural firm of Bell & Hackney in Des Moines, Iowa, which relocated their offices to Kansas City in 1887. Smith came to Kansas City with William Hackney as a draftsman and became a partner of the firm in 1892. When Hackney died in 1898, Smith replaced Hackney as the official architect to the Kansas City Missouri School District. In 1910, Smith formed the firm of Smith, Rea & Lovitt.

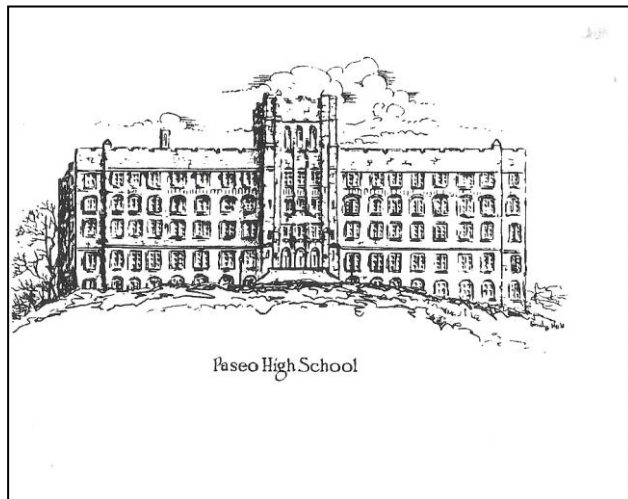
During Smith's tenure with the Schools, he designed more than 50 school buildings for the School District. In addition, he continued to work on non-school projects such as the Firestone Building at 2001 Grand, the Kansas City Club at 1228 Baltimore, the original Hereford Association Building at 300 West 11th, the Kansas City Municipal Airport, and the Kansas City Public Library at 500 East 9th. Two of Smith's last designs were the Fine Arts Building on the UMKC campus completed in 1942, and the Unity Temple at 47th and Jefferson, built in 1948.

Smith has been credited for several technical advancements in ventilation and cleanliness that were adopted in schools throughout the country.

The Faculty of ...

The First Class of Paseo High School 1927

Jane Adams Latin	Fred G. Anibel Science	Irene Blasé English	Mrs. M.G. Burton Household Arts	H.V. Campbell Mechanical Arts
G.G. Carman Science	Paul C. Constant French & Spanish	W.F. Cramer Science	Myrtle T. Cullens Physical Education	Marguerite Downs History & English
Ora A. Eckles History	Virgil V. Edmonds Music & History	Eva Mae Faulkner Commerce	Raymond Fisher Physical Education	Anna M. Francis Expression
H.B. Franklin History	Frances M. Friend Math & Edu. Counsel	J.C. Guisinger Mechanical Arts	Iva Hardin English	Justine A. Hinters Commerce & Study Hall
Sgt. James Howard R.O.T.C.	Eleanor M. Johnson History	Lula Kaufman Mathematics	Helen Keohane English	Mary D. Lawrence English
Owen H. Lovejoy Science	Sadie McMillan English	Delle Miller Art	Mabelle M. Miller English	Elizabeth Minckemeyer Mathematics
Muriel Molony Mathematics	Martha E. Neher Commerce	Harry Ogg Mathematics	Lottie G. Reber Health Advisor	Martha Redmond Mathematics
Margaret Riley English	Flora May Sanders Spanish & English	H.E. Selvidge Physical Education	Helen Spencer History	Carrie Stittsworth Study Hall
Mary Agnes Swinney English	Margaret Taylor Physical Education	L.E. Terry Commerce	Eleanor Thomas Science	Margaret E.Thompson Commerce
James A. Voth Printing	Ruth Mary Weeks English	Alice Wulfekammer Household Arts	Marguerite Zimmerman Music	Frances R. Larson Registrar
Neva W. Christine Clerk	Rachel R. Anderson Librarian	Ruth Carncross Assistant Librarian	Maxine Heimbaugh Assistant Librarian	Hortense Hoffman Assistant Librarian
Page Jones Assistant Librarian	Mary L. Gibson Cafeteria	J.B. Nash Custodian	J.M. Watson Engineer	



The Senior Class
 of
 Paseo High School
 announces its
 First Annual Commencement Exercises
 Thursday evening, June ninth
 Nineteen hundred twenty-seven
 High School Auditorium
 Kansas City, Missouri

Paseo's First Principal and Vice Principal



Bennett M. Stigall
1926-1944



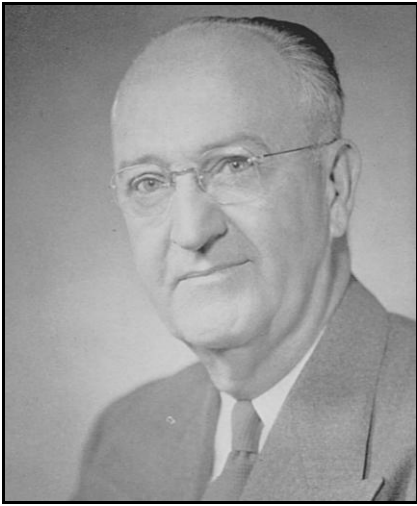
Harry R. Shepherd
1926-1944

Bennett Merriman Stigall, born 1874, married Agnes L. in 1899 while living as a student in Lawrence, Kansas. Moved to Kansas City as a school teacher. Was promoted to Vice Principal at Westport and later became the Assistant Superintendent on June 5, 1919. Later became Principal at Northeast High School on June 16, 1921 and in 1926 became the Principal of the new Paseo High School. His tenure of service at Paseo spanned 18 years.

Harry R. Shepherd, attended Missouri State University.

Principal

Vice Principals and Assistant Principals



James C. Bond
1944-1959



W. Lawrence
Cannon
1944-1950



Gayle T. Chubb
1950-1958



Edgar E. Curtis
1958-1962

James C. Bond, J. C. Bond

The Kansas City Star Tuesday, April 5, 1983. James C. Bond Sr., 93, of 408 N. Murray Road, Lee's Summit, a former school administrator, died Monday at Lee's Summit Community Hospital.

Mr. Bond was principal of Paseo High School for 15 years before he retired in 1959. He earlier had been principal of Henry C. Kumpf Elementary School in Kansas City, president of the former Kansas City Teachers College and superintendent of schools in Keytesville, Memphis and Macon in Missouri.

He was a member of the Kansas City Rotary Club and the Professional Men's Club. He was a member of the Boy Scouts Council, was a former chieftain of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and had received the Silver Beaver Award. He was graduated from Westminster College, Fulton, Mo., in 1912 and received a master's degree from Columbia University, New York.

His wife, Mrs. Alma Ruth Bond, died in 1977. He was born in Grant City, Mo. and had lived in this area since 1925.

He leaves a son, James Bond Jr., Wilmington, Del.; a daughter, Miss Betty Jean Bond, Kansas City; two brothers, Orlo Bond, Rockport, Mass., and Martin Bond, Wiesbaden, West Germany; a sister, Mrs. Venus Hinshaw, WaKeeney, Kan.; and two grandsons.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Newcomer Brush Creek Chapel; burial in Mount Washington Cemetery. The family suggests contributions to Westminster College or Children's Mercy Hospital.

Principals



Paul M. Marshall
1959-1966



Dr. Robert Frank Bibens
1966-1967



Edgar Curtis
1967-1970

Vice Principals and Assistant Principals



Edgar E. Curtis
1958-1962



J. Harold Morris
1960-1963



William T. Ridley
1962-1965



Laurence P. Wilson
1963-1968



Robert F. Bibens
1965-1967



Laurence P. Wilson
1963-1968



Edgar Van Fleet
1966-1975



Laurence P. Wilson
1963-1968



Edgar Van Fleet
1966-1975



Freddie Lee Simpson
1968-1970



Isaiah Banks
1969-1970

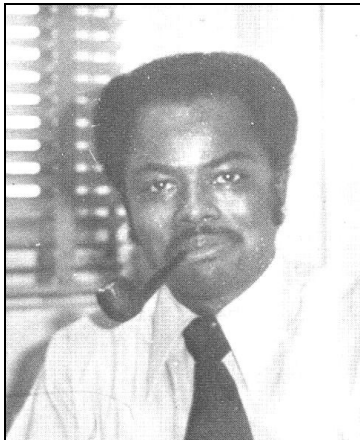


Harry Klutz
Assistant
Principal

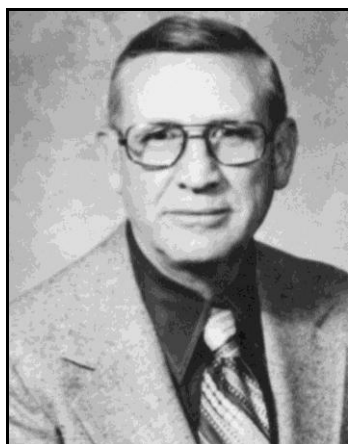
Principals



Marvin Brooks
1970-1971

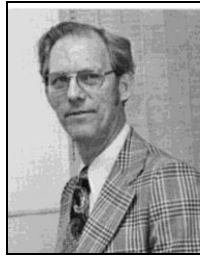


Willie Giles
1971-1975



James C. Reneau
1975-1978

Vice Principals and Assistant Principals



Edgar Van
Fleet
1966-1975



William R.
Tillmon
1970-1975



William Prewitt
1970-1975



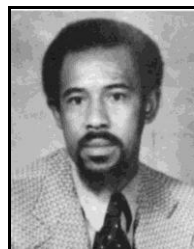
Edgar Van
Fleet
1966-1975



William Prewitt
1970-1975



William R.
Tillmon
1970-1975



Curtis Jones
1975-19??



Harold Liggins
1976-19??



Gloria Sadler
1977-1978



Stephen
Brown, Jr.
1976-1977

Principals



Raymond C. Meadows
1978-1988

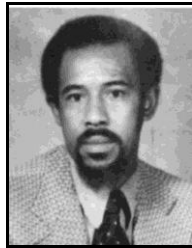


Robert L. Jackson
1988-1989



William Stroud
1989-1990

Vice Principals and Assistant Principals



Curtis Jones
1974-19??



Harold Liggins
19??-19??



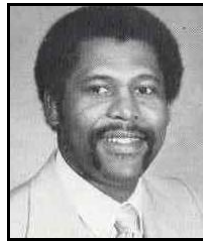
Gloria Sadler
1977-19??



Maurice L.
Weaver
19??-1990



William E.
Stroud
19??-1989



Dr. Will
McCarther



Wesley Elders



Patricia
Hanson



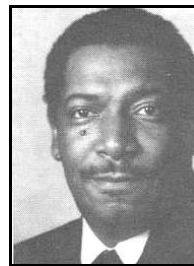
William Stroud
19??-1989



Maurice
Weaver
19??-1990



Maurice
Weaver
19??-1990



Ed Watkins
1889-1993

Grade Schools in the Paseo District

At the time of the start-up of the Paseo High School in 1926, fourteen elementary schools made up the Paseo District. All these schools were founded in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The following typifies the hardships in the lives and experiences at the turn of the 20th Century.

School sessions typically began in a two room frame building and carried with it the hardships of a pioneer in a sparsely settled country district. The streets were ungraded, there were no sidewalks and stepping stones were the only crossings over very muddy roads. Small children were often carried across the roads to the school yard by older boys who wore high rubber boots or were barefooted. In the winter, big coal stoves heated the poorly built rooms very unevenly. Brains simmered while toes froze and children near the big stove drowsed in the warmth while those near the windows shivered in their wraps. At recess the ice in the row of water buckets on the bench in the school yard was broken to get a drink. When it was too snowy to go out, the buckets and dippers were brought into the school room.

With the hardships of the pioneer came all the joys of the country. Throughout the autumn and the warm spring days, windows were opened to let in the fresh, smokeless air. The grassy school yards were ideal for games and studies and the views were superb in all seasons of the year.

The city was rapidly growing southward, the streets around the schools became graded and paved, homes were being built and the children began going to school in a much improved atmosphere.

1927 Schools, Principals and locations ...

School	Principal	Location
Bancroft	Cora Campbell	43 rd & Tracy
Blenheim	Jennie C. Howe	71 st & Olive
Chick, Joseph S.	Mable Trumbo	50 th & Elmwood
Frances Willard	Lenna Goode	50 th & Garfield
Graceland	Elizabeth J. Jones	51 st & Chestnut
Knotts, William A.	Myrtle M. Young	70 th & Bales
Kumpf, Henry C.	Eugene H. Bash	45 th & Wabash
Mann, Horace	Alva R. Hamilton	39 th & Euclid
Mark Twain	Elizabeth Dolan	60 th & Swope Parkway
Marlborough	Virginia Jones	75 th & Tracy
Meservey, Edwin C.	Lucie L. Seymour	45 th & Spruce
Nelson, William Rockhill	Clara Falke	53 rd & Holmes
Pershing, John J.	Matilda Imhoff	59 th & Park
Troost	Ida Good	60 th & Forest

Bancroft School



On a hilltop at 43rd and Tracy the Bancroft School, a two room frame building, opened it's doors on September 20, 1904. Soon after opening, a second frame building was moved into its place beside the first one, then another and another, until there was a group of four small buildings.

In a few years students watched while the first wing of a new building had been started and they moved into that new 'beautiful school' in April, 1910. At that time Bancroft had an enrollment of 406

students and nine classroom teachers.

Once again space became limited and in December, 1913 the other wing of the school was completed. By 1922 the enrollment at Bancroft School was 920 students.

Blenheim School



In 1838 Mr. and Mrs. Henderson brought their horses to a halt, wearily descended from their wagon, sighed with relief and drank from a bubbling spring. They had arrived from Kentucky to their new home and land in the far west. They had selected a woody knoll on which to build their home.

Mr. Henderson had received his land grant from the government and the deed to the land was signed by Martin Van Buren, the President of the United States. Only a few years later,

Mr. Henderson sold the land to Coleman Younger, the father of Cole Younger, of the famous 'Jesse James Gang'. In 1887 the property was sold to Mr. Finis C. Farr who dedicated the larger portion of the land to establish the Forest Hill Cemetery.

In 1910 a portion of the remaining land was sold to the Green Realty Co., was platted and, due to the English background of the Green family, the area was named Blenheim. It was John Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough, who led the English to victory at Blenheim.

In 1912, Kansas City annexed Blenheim and the surrounding territory and the Board of Education purchased the land on which Blenheim School now stands at Gregory & Olive Streets. In the fall of 1913, the first Blenheim School was opened with 21 students attending.

Joseph S. Chick School



Early in the summer of 1913 fourteen families, living west of the Blue River in the area of 50th & Elmwood Avenue, petitioned the Kansas City Board of Education for a school in their district. When a census was taken, it was found there were sufficient children of school age to establish a school. The petition was granted and the contract was let for a two room building in August, just 19 days before the start of the school year. The Blue Valley Land Co., which was developing the land west of the Blue River, offered the site, 200 feet

west of Elmwood on the south side of 50th St. through to 50th St. Terrace, on which a school was built, with the understanding that the Board of Education would have the use of the ground for five years, provided it was used only for school purposes.

The school was completed in the 19 days prior to the start of the school year and was named Joseph S. Chick School in honor of a Kansas City pioneer. Enrollment on opening day was 21 students in grades one through six and classes were held in only one of the two rooms because problems arose with the families living east of the Blue River. Although that area had been included as a part of Kansas City, they could not be taken into the Kansas City School District. Later, after taking their case to Court, the Missouri Legislature passed a bill and the Kansas City Board of Education was allowed to accept those families to attend school in the School District.

Joseph S. Chick, Jr. was a prominent businessman in Kansas City and was the founder of the first banking house in Kansas City. He was born August 3, 1828 in Howard County, Missouri.

Faxon School



In the fall of 1906 some of the south side schools were very overcrowded so the Board of Education made a decision to open another school in the growing south side of Kansas City.

Interestingly, in connection with the choice of a site for the school there became a difference of opinion among members of the School Board as well as the Superintendent's office. Some wanted the site at the corner of Armour

Boulevard and The Paseo, others disagreed. Their arguments were that the only reason for another school was to relieve the other very overcrowded ones in the area and that it would be twenty-five years before there would be any building development south of thirty-seventh street. They also argued that it was poor judgment to locate a school so far away from the schools needing relief and on a site that was surrounded by fields and apple orchards.

However, those with the clearest vision of the future prevailed. A corner of Thirty-seventh and Paseo was purchased from the Squier Manor Estates and plans were made for the organization of the school. Temporary buildings were ordered to be erected and were ready in February, 1907. The school became known as the Faxon School in honor of Mr. Frank A Faxon, a highly regarded citizen of Kansas City and a member of the Board of Education.

The enrollment for the first year, 1907, was 88 students and by 1910, enrollment was 278. The students had outgrown the temporary buildings. In 1910, the Board voted in favor of a permanent building and in September, 1911, a new brick school building was completed. By 1922 the Faxon School housed 900 Students.

Frances Willard School



At 50th and Garfield, the Board of Education opened a new school on November 21, 1910 with 37 students. By the end of that school year, the attendance had grown to 95 students with 3 teachers. On February 2, 1911, the Board named the school Frances E. Willard in honor of the greatest temperance worker this country has ever known. On May 28, 1912, the WCTU presented the school with a large picture of Frances Willard.

After attending school in a growing number of frame buildings for 12 years, the School Board built a permanent building that was completed in 1922 with 240 students attending classes. Miss Lenna Goode became the Principal in 1916.

The pages of the early record of attendance of the school bear this inscription, "Mud", as an accepted excuse for tardiness or absence. A pioneer of the district said when her small children returned from school she always cautioned them to remain at the door until she could have them follow the Japanese custom of removing their shoes before they entered.

Graceland School

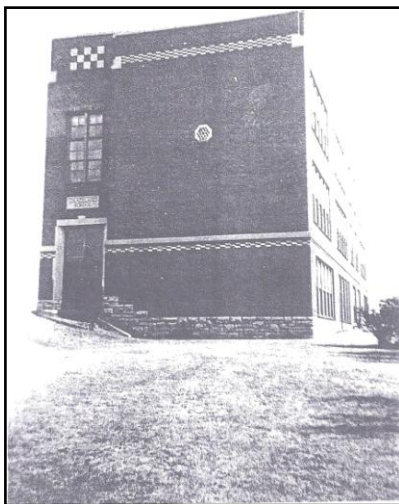


In 1914, named after the neighborhood in which it resided, the Graceland School opened at 51st & Chestnut as a two room school with 37 students. Grades one through four were taught by two teachers. By September, 1915, enrollment had grown to 66 students. Growth in the neighborhood slowed and in 1916, many families had moved from the area and their homes were occupied by childless couples.

Building in the area was at a standstill. However, three years after its opening, another annex was moved from the old Swope School making three rooms in session and in 1920 a fourth room was added. There were now 175 students in attendance. By 1927 Graceland had 258 students in attendance with 7 teachers. Miss Elizabeth Jones, one of two original teachers became the Principal.

Between 1927 and 1935, the area surrounding Graceland remained stable but was not growing. In 1940 a "Griffenhagen" survey indicated that Graceland should be closed and students should attend other schools in the area. A mass meeting was called and 150 parents went to the Board of Education, argued their case and the school remained open.

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s the school continued to grow and by 1961, the enrollment at Graceland was over 500 students.



Horace Mann School



In 1890 a small school named Ivanhoe School, was opened in a second floor hallway in a building at 38th and Woodland Avenue. At best, it provided the children of this suburban part of the city with educational advantages. The next year, 1891, a tract of land was purchased at 39th and Euclid Avenue, the present location of the school. At the same time, a two room brick building which stood on this ground, burned and a four room frame school was built to replace the burned building.

It was not until nine years later, 1899, when this school was annexed into the Kansas City School District and renamed Horace Mann School. When the school was admitted to the District, it had an enrollment of 229 students and a faculty of four teachers. The Horace Mann district at that time, extended from 35th Street on the north to 54th Street on the south and from Paseo on the west to the Blue River on the east. It was a vast area without sidewalks or street improvements.

But the City was pushing rapidly to the south and in a few years it was well built up with comfortable homes. Although the Board of Education had added another teacher to the faculty and rented the basement of the Ivanhoe Church to use as a classroom, they fully realized that a new school building was needed. So, in 1904, the first unit of the new building was built. In that same year a kindergarten department was added and domestic science was taught for the first time. Two years later in 1906, the other unit was built so the present building was completed and the name Horace Mann School was carved above the doors.

More ground was purchased on the north of the building and was surfaced for a playground for the students.

By this time the Horace Mann School district was no longer a vast territory stretching from Paseo to the Blue River, but a very small compact area with new modern schools on all sides. By 1925, the addition of an auditorium and gymnasium had been added.

William A. Knotts School/Shiloh



Just over 2 acres of land were deeded to the Trustees for school purposes by William McMinn during the Civil War. The one-room school was completed shortly after the Battle of Shiloh and the inhabitants on this locality, being southerners, the school was named Shiloh in commemoration of that battle. For years it stood as a monument to southerner's sympathies and successive generations passed through its doors.

As the years passed, one room after another was added occasionally to provide for the increase in students until the time of its total destruction by fire in 1912. However, prior to the fire, a mass meeting had been held in the school and Shiloh school was voted into the Kansas City School System. After the school burned, it was relocated to 70th & Bales and later, its name was changed to William A. Knotts. The school is now located at 73rd & Jackson.

William A. Knotts was very active in Civic affairs and served a term as the President of the Kansas City School Board.

Henry C. Kumpf School



The Henry C. Kumpf School was located between Olive St. and Wabash Avenue at 45th Street. The school opened with framed annexes in 1912 with two teachers in charge. The location of the school became necessary because of the rapid development of the Oak Park area and the contingent territory to the south and west. The location was one of the most rapidly developing sections of the city and the school grew rapidly until 1920 when it

occupied thirteen rooms all in frame annexes. The enrollment at that time was more than four hundred students.

At the insistence of the school patrons and careful consideration of the Board of Education, the Board decided to erect a modern building for the school. The new building became one of the finest elementary buildings in the country when it was dedicated in ceremonies on March 11, 1921.

In the summer of 1867, Mr. Kumpf attended the first planning meeting with William Sheffield and others that resulted in the formation of the Kansas City School District and he became the District's first Secretary. Mr. Kumpf was born in Germany in 1831 and came to this country in 1849, settling in St. Louis. During the entire period of the Civil war he served in the Union Army working in the Ordinance field. After the war, Mr. Kumpf came to Kansas City, where he resided until the time of his death in 1904.

Among his other responsibilities, Mr. Kumpf was City Auditor from 1872 to 1875, Comptroller from 1877 to 1880 and Mayor of Kansas City from 1877 to 1880.

Sanford B. Ladd School



This time the plan was different. The new school would be built; and there would be no temporary one and two room frame buildings with no water and no pot belly stoves. The school stood on a terrace about four feet above the street at 35th & Walrond and was opened in September, 1912. Its name became the Sanford B. Ladd School.

The following year, 1913, to the surprise of school officials, the new 10 room school was filled to capacity and half day classes had to be invoked. The pride of having a new school with no temporary frame buildings was soon crushed and at the beginning of the second year. Rather than going to half day sessions, two frame buildings were erected in the still new schoolyard.

In 1916, the seventh grade, with their teachers, was moved to the Central High School and the school continued to operate up to the sixth grade level. But the housing of students was still unsolved. During the war building conditions were almost prohibitive so three more rooms were added to the colony of frame buildings making a total of nine annex rooms.

In 1922 an addition to the building was completed and included 18 classrooms, a gymnasium and an auditorium. The teaching staff consisted of 20 classroom teachers, a domestic science and manual training teacher.

Enrollment in 1922 totaled 982 students.

Sanford B. Ladd was a Kansas City attorney and was the attorney for the Kansas City Board of Education for 45 years.



A typical two room frame building.

Linwood School



What was referred to as a Lane was actually a dirt road and, sitting beside that Road, was a small building. Surrounding the building was a neighborhood of a few homes in rural Jackson County. For necessary neighborhood meetings the folks living in the area would ride their horses or take their wagons to the meeting. The more affluent would ride in their buggies but all tied their horses to the fence posts.

That was in 1880 when Kansas City was very young and the small building was named "County School number 6" with 25 students enrolled.

In 1890, with its rapid movement southward, the City annexed the land and on April 12, the Kansas City School District annexed the little school which sat next to a 20 acre apple orchard. The school was on the corner of what is now Linwood Boulevard and Woodland Avenue and the chosen name became Linwood School.

Who would ever have thought that someday, Carole Eikost would attend the Linwood School? In 1890 her Grandparents weren't old enough to get married.

As was the case with all Kansas City schools, growth was imminent and very soon, Linwood School rented a storeroom on 31st and Vine and a room at a nearby Presbyterian Church. In the fall of 1890, construction began on an eight room brick building, one-third of the architects design. Later, the two additional wings were added making the school a 24 classroom building.

Starting in 1880 with 25 students, the school grew to an enrollment of 1039 students by 1923.



Mark Twain School



For years this school district of Kansas City needed a school so at last, in 1849, a little school house was built at 55th and Woodland. It was named the Hayes School in honor of the man who owned the tract of land on which it was built. The buildings in those days were very crude and slaves built it from sun-dried bricks. The school was used until 1868 when it was destroyed by an earthquake.

A new building was then erected at 55th Street and what became Tracy Ave. It served for 38 years. Then the people demanded a better building so one was built in 1905 and it was named the Swope School. In the first year there were 68 students attending and the school graduated two of those students that year. The school had been in operation for 5 years and was still considered a country school but on March 17, 1910, it was admitted into the Kansas City School District.

Several new rooms were added to the building but as the number of children increased, the patrons demanded a larger and more modern building. In the summer of 1915, the cornerstone of the new building was laid and, in order to follow the population, the new location was on east 60th St. just east of what is now Swope Parkway. Once again, the name was changed and became the Mark Twain School.

The new school became one of the most modern school buildings in the United States. The building was 184 x 160 feet and was built in an Italian Renaissance style. The exterior walls were built with cut stone, enhanced with stucco and trimmed with red vitrified brick. All but 3 of the 31 rooms were at ground level and each had direct access to the grounds outside.

Mark Twain School was the first building design of its type in Kansas City and all new schools built later followed the Mark Twain architecture as they were built.

Marlborough School



The original Marlborough School was opened in September, 1914, in a two room frame structure located at 75th and Tracy. Mr. H. M. Ingraham, a substitute teacher, was in charge.

All the grades were included in the work of the first year.

In 1914 enrollment of the school was 23 students and at the end of the school year of 1925, enrollment had grown to 143.

On March 25, 1914, land was purchased for a new school in the Marlborough district. The school provided a temporary structure for the 74 students in what was then the Marlborough district which had been growing at a significant pace.

Then, in the summer of 1927 construction of a new Marlborough school was underway on 75th street between Virginia and Tracy avenues. The three story building, designed by Charles A. Smith, contained 24 classrooms, manual training and domestic science rooms with an auditorium and gymnasium.

Edwin C. Meservey



As was the case with many of the start-up grade schools in the Kansas City district, the E. C. Meservey School was started as a one room structure in November, 1923. It was located on 45th and Spruce and was not far from Brush Creek. Only 11 months later, the district added an additional 4 classrooms. With the growth of the city, it was only four years later, in May, 1927, a bid was let to build a new permanent structure.

The new building design by Charles A. Smith was created to be built first in a central section and later, with both a right and then left wing as the school enrollment increased. Both wings were completed by mid 1935.

Edwin C. Meservey was a well known businessman in Kansas City, was active in the development of the school district and served in many capacities in the district including President of the School Board.

William Rockhill Nelson School



In the fall of 1922 a new school was organized at 52nd and Holmes Street and was known only as an "Overflow School". Superintendent Melcher had identified the area as a growth region due to the development of what had become the Rockhill district. At the time, the location was desolate with only grassy fields with cows grazing and lush wooded areas.

In an open area there was one building described as a two-room frame building which became the new "Overflow School". A Miss Falke accepted the responsibility of opening the school.

Unfortunately, the total attendance in the school for the first two weeks averaged only 23 students and the School Board suggested that Kindergarten through the 3rd grade meet in one room with one teacher. With that word, mothers in the area made a house-to-house canvass and by the end of the first school year, attendance averaged 70 students.

The area grew rapidly and by 1924 the first unit of a permanent brick building was completed and the enrollment had grown to 160 students. A year later, enrollment grew to 350 students and the wooden annexes were once again used.

Early on it had been suggested that since the building was located in the beautiful Rockhill district that the most appropriate name for the building should be the William Rockhill Nelson School. Upon completion of the beautiful brick building, Laura Nelson Kirkwood, the daughter of Mr. Nelson donated a portrait of her father which hung in the hallway facing the entrance of the new building.

Mr. Nelson, founder of the Kansas City Star, died April 13, 1915. After providing for his family, he left his entire fortune to the public of Kansas City, to be used in establishing an art center, erecting a building and purchasing works of art, such as paintings, engravings, sculptor, tapestries and rare books.

John J. Pershing School



Just east of the Blue Hills Golf Club on 59th and Olive Streets there was erected in the summer of 1918 a small frame school building, built on plans quite unique for small school houses. Although anything but impressive from the exterior, inside the building was as cozy and comfortable as many of the larger buildings in the city. It consisted of four large classrooms, one of which was arranged for use as an assembly room, for not only the school, but the community at large. Since this was the only room of any size in the neighborhood it did much service as a meeting place for various purposes. There was also an office and supply room in the school and the building was set on a rock foundation. It was heated by means of hot air furnaces and was lighted by electricity.

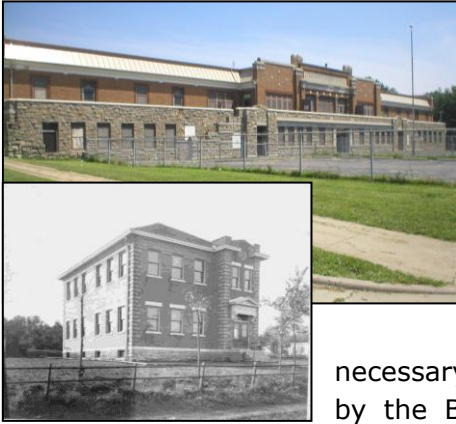
The school was named the John J. Pershing School in honor of General Pershing who was in France at the time. In appreciation of the compliment paid him, General Pershing sent a letter and photograph of himself taken in uniform. Both letter and photograph were preserved in the school.

Due to the high cost of living at the time of the opening of the school, the district did not build up as was expected and, on September 6, 1918, the school was organized with 26 students. However, all grades were taught when the school was started. For the first two years in the life of the school, the enrollment grew slowly, but with the large amount of building in the district, the number of children in the district was rapidly growing and it became certain that a larger school would be needed.

As the school enrollment grew past the 150 mark a full kindergarten was maintained as well as a 7th grade. The first 7th grade graduating class consisted of four boys and three girls.

Although there was no provision in the building, each week for a half day, the boys attended the H. C. Kumpf School for manual training work and a teacher was sent to the school to instruct the girls in sewing.

Troost Avenue School



Troost Avenue School was one of two school buildings located in a rural School District in Jackson County, Missouri. The first building, a one room school frame structure located at 63rd Street and Wornall Road, was known by the name of "Border Star" School – having adopted the name of a Kansas City newspaper which was destroyed during the Civil War.

As population increased in the district it became necessary to provide more school room. This was brought about by the Board of Directors, composed of four gentlemen who bought a plot of ground located on Troost Avenue at 60th Street in 1906.

Immediately, a four room brick building was erected and named the Troost Avenue School because of its location on that important thoroughfare. On September 17, 1906, with two teachers and eighty-six students, classes were formed and the school started on its journey. The first graduating class was in 1908 and consisted of 4 boys and 4 girls. Graduates had to travel to Independence, MO to receive their diplomas.

During the first five years of its existence the school had grown to capacity, requiring four teachers to care for the 140 students in attendance.

During the month of September, 1911, the school was taken into the Kansas City School District.

Troost Avenue, as it is now known was named after Dr. Benoist L. G. Troost, M. D., the first physician to live in Jackson County. Dr. Troost was born in Bois Le Duc, Holland on November 17, 1786 when Holland was controlled by France under Napoleon. After coming to this country, Dr. Troost eventually chose to live in Jackson County. One of his incentives to live in the Kansas City area was due to a French settlement then known as Westport Landing.

E.C. White School



In the mid to late 1900s Kansas City was rapidly moving southward and it became necessary to continue locating new schools in the 'southern' part of the city. One of those new schools became the E.C. White School.

The site selected was at 50th and Oak Street where a two room frame building was moved from the Westport High School. The building was placed on the bank of a small tributary of Brush Creek and students reached the school by

crossing a small foot bridge built over the stream. The school was named in honor of Professor E.C. White who, for many years was the Principal of the old Central High School.

Opening day for the new school presented a surprise; the building was in place but no one had cleaned it for the opening day of school. The Principal, Miss Attie Moorman arrived early and when the sixty students came to school, they were enrolled and sent home for the rest of the day. The Principal enlisted the help of a janitor from a nearby drug store and together they cleaned the building and school started the following day. Enrollment continued to grow and by the end of the second year of school, another two room building was added.

In 1912, after 5 years in the 2 frame buildings it was determined by the School District that a new building should be built. The District purchased land at the corner of 49th and Main and the new school was opened on February 13, 1914.

In 1961 classes were discontinued in the E.C. White School and in 1965 the school was demolished to make way for the new Plaza branch library.

The Battle to save our School

In a court hearing concerning the Kansas City Desegregation Case, an Attorney for the Plaintiff used the words, "A Monument to White Supremacy," and the beautiful 'school on the hill' would have to be demolished. Paseo High School was scheduled to come down for all of the wrong reasons. Several other high schools in the Kansas City School District, some older than Paseo High, had been, or were scheduled to be up-dated or completely re-furnished, but not Paseo. The death knell of this landmark rang loud and clear.

Paseo High School was considered by most residents and students in the area, to be the most attractive school in the Kansas City School District and, according to the Kansas City Landmarks Commission, the building should be preserved. The Landmarks Commission briefly described the school as follows: "The Paseo High School is of the Collegiate Gothic style of architecture derived from the late Gothic Revival style which flourished in the ecclesiastical, educational and commercial fields until the 1930's.....a five story native stone building sited on a commanding summit. A stately dual perron rises up the hillside from The Paseo Boulevard to Flora Street and the primary façade of the school. A grand dual-level perron gradually ascends to the elevated entrance portal, centrally placed on the wall tower. The wall tower is an imposing dominate feature of the west façade....."

This towering building, although very impressive, was secondary when considering the camaraderie and spirit of the Administration, Faculty and Student Body alike. Paseo became a second home for 3,000 people.

But, the school was coming down.

Magnet schools had become 'the thing to do' in many school systems and the Kansas City district was no exception in that thinking. Paseo had become a candidate to be transformed into a Magnet School as the 'Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts of Kansas City, Middle School of the Arts Center for the Performing Arts'. Persons making that decision quickly determined in their own mind that the "old" building was unsatisfactory and should be replaced with a new, modern building.

In 1987, School Superintendent, Dr. George Garcia, claimed that the school would be demolished. However, on September 15, 1987, Judge Russell G. Clark entered an order approving construction of a new Paseo High School, but not ordering the demolition of the old Paseo High School and ordered nothing concerning the dispersal of the student body. On June 28, 1988 a "Final Site Report" was issued that stated (1) "Existing Paseo High School can remain as an annex for interim use." (2) "The existing Paseo High School, located on this site, must remain in use as an annex for the next few years." In the fall of 1988, Architect Patty Berkebille Nelson Immenshuh determined that the best layout of the new facilities would require use of the land under laying old Paseo.

In February, 1989, Dr. Garcia presented options regarding Paseo High School to the Board of Education. On February 28, 1989, the Board of Education voted to tear down Paseo High School at the end of the 1989-1990 school year. However, no vote was taken on that date nor any other date to determine the student body would be broken and scattered throughout the District as opposed to being moved as a group to Central or Southwest, or any other facility. On March 30, 1989, Judge Clark entered an Order "discontinuing the use of the existing Paseo High School and replacing it with a new facility in the present site," but

not ordering demolition of the old Paseo High School or dispersal of the student body. Judge Clark's Order was based upon the June 28, 1988 "Final Site Report" which contemplated the continued use of the school for the next few years.

In December, 1989, Students of Paseo were told for the first time (beyond rumor) that their building will be torn down and that "something drastic is going to happen to the student body." On March 12, 1990, Superintendent George Garcia told students, parents and teachers at Paseo High School that the Court had ordered the decision about demolishing Paseo High School and breaking and scattering the student body. This was not true. Finally, on April 2, 1990, Superintendent Garcia wrote a letter to Paseo High School students telling them that their student body would be dispersed and their building demolished. He told them that nothing would "interfere with the District's legal, court-ordered plan." Again, this was untrue to inform the public that the Court had ordered the demolition of Paseo High School and the breaking and scattering of the student body.

Friends of Paseo

The "Friends of Paseo", the Core Group in an attempt to save the school began with a meeting at the home of Sharon Teague McCone on January 18, 1990. A group of interested Alumni listened to Susan Cline-Cordinair from the Kansas City Historical Foundation give

suggestions on how to save Paseo High School. Four leaders surfaced from the meeting. They were **Reta Wilson, Peggy Oesch, Sharon McCone and Lela Cayton**. They began by speaking at Board meetings, holding a rally, locating more interested Alumni, speaking before the Landmarks Commission and joining with the beginning of "The Paseo Eighteen." This nine month journey included many learning experiences including the joining of Blacks and Whites greatly needed in the Kansas City area.



Left to Right: Reta Wilson, Peggy Oesch, Sharon McCone and Lela Cayton.

The Demolition of a Landmark

Pictures by **Bert Aaron**, Class of 1955 and **Diane Myerson Aaron**, Class of 1956



Paseo High School 1925—1990

By Tom Bogdon

Nov. 2, 1990, the Kansas City View. At home on my dresser is a stub of white candle with a blackened wick left over from a memorable occasion on the night of October 23, 1990, when black people and white people, young and old, rich and not-so-rich gathered in front of Paseo high school to bid farewell to the majestic school.

The highlight of the evening was when former students, alumni, and other friends some 400 strong, candles lighted in the gathering autumn dusk, assembled on the sweeping staircase in front of the doomed school and sang, "We Shall Overcome."

And make no mistake. Overcoming the ignorance, bureaucracy, stupidity, incompetence, narrow vision, and arrogance of Kansas City officialdom was and continues to be the problem of the Paseoites and of the vast majority of other Kansas Citians opposed to the senseless destruction of this architecturally significant and structurally sound school building.

So senseless is the destruction that one is reminded of Jesus Christ's plea from the cross: "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do." How else can one explain the actions of a federal judge, various attorneys, the Board of Education, and the Kansas City Council?

But Oct. 23, 1990, was not an evening of looking back so much as it was of looking ahead, as were the 64 Paseo commencements. John Kurtz, one of the attorneys who represented the Paseo 18 students pro bono in their effort to save their school, spoke of the "Spirit of Paseo" that would be the legacy of the Paseoites' courage and perseverance as they struggled for nearly a year against a stacked deck.

Even though the candlelight vigil was sponsored by THE VIEW as a tribute to that courage and perseverance, there was never any doubt that the Paseoites and their friends would take the one chance left to them to save the school. Another effort was made two days later to put individual members of the gutless City Council on record as to whether they favored landmark designation for Paseo. Landmark designation would stall demolition for at least 18 months. However, Mayor Richard Berkley and the 12 council members just talked and did not even have the courage to bring the matter to a vote, a powerful argument for approving term limitations provided for Question 1 on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Oh, yes, Berkley and all 12 members of the council were invited to the candlelight vigil. But not one of these splendid politicians could fit the event into his or her busy schedule, although several Paseoites said they saw Councilman Emanuel Cleaver, a candidate for mayor, drive by in a car. School Board members, also invited, were busy plotting strategy for the district at a board meeting. One can't help but think that they would have served their constituents better by attending the candlelight vigil at Paseo.

One principal in this fiasco who was not invited was Arthur A. Benson II, the desegregation attorney who has a big say in running the school district. The reason Benson was not invited was because he no doubt would be offended by a candlelight vigil at a school he calls

a “monument to segregation.” Benson was bound and determined that Paseo High School would be demolished, and he prevailed. After U.S. District Judge Russell G. Clark signed the demolition order, Benson proclaimed proudly: “Paseo High School is going to be a pile of rubble in about three weeks.”

John Kurtz and the 12 other volunteer attorneys who represented the Paseo 18 students in their quest to save their school saw Paseo’s history and character with a clearer vision. In their brief, these attorneys made the following points:

“The entire goal of the desegregation program has been to bring the races together in education and in support of education. Unfortunately, program advocates and this Court have had to endure great resistance from patrons and citizens over the past 13 years. People have filed lawsuits in order to block the desegregation plan and impede the means of funding it. Far too much negativism has prevailed. Now comes the Paseo High School revitalization issue that itself has brought black and white people together with positive momentum for the desegregation plan.”

“This can be a critical turning point in the entire effort. This first truly positive expression of public sentiment from all sectors of the community can be a vehicle for giving the citizens a stake in the desegregation program. Such an issue with a magnetic power on the minds, hearts and souls of such otherwise diverse groups is unlikely to arise again during our generation. We cannot afford to miss this rare chance to endorse and foster the diverse cooperation, concern, and zeal which this project has generated....”

“Attorney Benson candidly admits that he was ‘unable to find’ even one single parent who favored the replacement building—The Kansas City School District did bring to Court some persons favoring the replacement building—but they were all persons on its payroll. In stark contrast to these evidentiary difficulties, the all-volunteer Students at Paseo High School brought patron after patron, citizen after citizen to Court in order to demonstrate the widespread appeal of the revitalization proposal. In the highest tradition of American democracy, the public has spoken....”

Now that opportunity is fading fast, and the soaring hilltop landmark, built in 1925 of limestone quarried on the site, will be torn down stone by stone and replaced by a suburban-style school, thanks in large part to the efforts of Arthur Benson II.

It’s funny about Benson, say people who have known the attorney for a long time. Back in the 1960s, these acquaintances say, Benson would have been among the first lawyers to volunteer his time to represent the Paseo 18. Acquaintances say Benson’s personal stake in defending the desegregation program and the reported \$3 million in fees he has earned from the case placed Benson and attorneys such as Kurtz and F. Russell Millin on opposite sides of the Paseo issue.

A production team from a video firm making a documentary about the demise of Paseo High School was at the candlelight vigil. If such a documentary were really to tell it like it is, it should not omit the Kafkaesque elements of the story. Franz Kafka’s novels show characters at the mercy of impersonal forces in bizarre Catch 22 situations. Examples in the Paseo story include the officious and sometime rude treatment of Paseo students and alumni by School Board President Julia Hill and her predecessor, Sue Fulson.

Like Kafka’s characters, the Paseoites couldn’t win for losing. The more they proved the logic and reasonableness of revitalizing instead of demolishing their school, the more the

odds seemed to mount against them. When Judge Clark ordered an architectural study of revitalizing the school it appeared they had made real progress, but that was just an illusion.

Acting under an order from Clark to compare the costs of renovation, including some new construction, with demolition and construction of a new building, Tomas Devine of Devine Architects, Inc., estimated that a revitalized Paseo of 211,000 square feet would cost \$11,414,004 compared to the \$11,439,947 cost of a 156,003 square-foot replacement building. Apparently that wasn't good enough.

The Paseo site has been designated in the desegregation plan as the site for an arts magnet school. The Paseo 18 brief showed that at least seven arts magnet schools across the country are located in historic, culturally significant, architecturally inspiring buildings. These buildings are all multi-story and range in age from the 100-year-old, renovated Duke Ellington School for the Arts in Washington, D.C. to the Arts Magnet School in San Diego in a 1950s building. Other such arts magnets in historic school buildings are in Baltimore, New Orleans, Rochester, N.Y., Milwaukee and Benton Harbor, Michigan.

As it turned out, that admirable approach combining inspiring education with historic preservation couldn't work in Kansas City, which is becoming known nationally for its wrecking ball mentality. Kansas City, once a leading exemplar of the City Beautiful movement, settles once again for the bland and tasteless.

Paseo High School, on the other hand, stood for something in the hearts and minds of its students and alumni, something that they were willing to sacrifice many hours of free time attending pointless School Board and City Council meetings and court hearings in their gallant attempt to save their school. Maybe those ideals are best summarized by the Paseo Alma Mater, written by Ruth Mary Weeks, that also was sung at the candlelight vigil.

"The soaring hilltop landmark, built in 1925, will be torn down stone by stone and replaced by a suburban-style school."



Photo by: Sharon Teague McCone

Remember who you are...

Paseo High School Alma Mater

On her hill Paseo towers
Fair and strong and high,
Shaken not by wind and tempest,
Pointing to the sky,
Catching on her lofty turrets
Dawn and sunset glow;
Grant that we in all our living
Equal beauty show.

Chorus

Dear Paseo, Alma Mater,
Pledge we now to thee,
Mind and hand, and heart's devotion,
Sworn to loyalty.

Here today we proudly gather
Bringing thee our youth.
Guide our hands in high endeavor,
Stamp our hearts with truth.
Make us ready, hold us steady
Wherever we may go,
That Paseo's noble precepts
All the world may know.

By Ruth Mary Weeks 1926

***Early Kansas City
and the
Kansas City, Missouri
School District***

In the Beginning ...

John Calvin McCoy was a "founder." First, of Westport, Missouri where he settled in 1830, and again, eight years later, of the original Town Company of Kansas, Missouri, which became Kansas City, Missouri. Born in Indiana, he was schooled in Kentucky as a surveyor. Nineteen-year-old John Calvin McCoy came west in 1830 with his father. There McCoy was town father, surveyor, tradesman, real estate investor and sub divider. In February, 1835 he patented a tract of government land, surveyed it and filed a plat for his new town of Westport. When the town company of Kansas was organized in 1838, John McCoy was one of the 14 original investors. He died in his home at 711 Olive Street, Kansas City, Missouri. John Calvin McCoy: Born September 28, 1811, died September 2, 1889.



Early History of Kansas City

In 1803 the Louisiana Territory was purchased from France for the sum of \$15,000,000. In 1804, when Lewis and Clark made their famous journey up the Missouri River, they camped for three days at the mouth of the Kaw River. In 1821, Francois Chouteau, a Frenchman from St. Louis, established a trading post on the south side of the Missouri River about three miles down stream from Kansas City. In this same year, 1821, Missouri was admitted into the Union. Five years later in 1826, Chouteau moved his trading post up the river at the foot of what became Troost Avenue.

In 1833, John Calvin McCoy bought some land and built a store at what is now the corner of Westport Road and Pennsylvania Avenue, the beginning of the town of Westport; a town older than Kansas City. In 1835 McCoy filed the plat of Westport.

In order to receive merchandise for his store, it had to be hauled from Wayne City, the landing point on the Missouri River for Independence, a distance of over twenty miles. To shorten this long haul, McCoy opened a wagon road from Westport to a natural rock levee on the river, at a point which later became Grand Boulevard. This levee is known as Westport Landing. In about 1838, McCoy organized the Kansas Town Company, bought some land on the south side of the river near the rock levee and platted the Town of Kansas, the beginning of Kansas City.

By 1850, a village of approximately 700 people had come to live near this levee. These villagers decided to incorporate and on June 3, 1850, the village was incorporated as the Town of Kansas. When a new charter was granted in 1853, it was designated the City of Kansas and in 1889, the name was officially changed to Kansas City.

A History of the Kansas City Missouri School District



Central High School



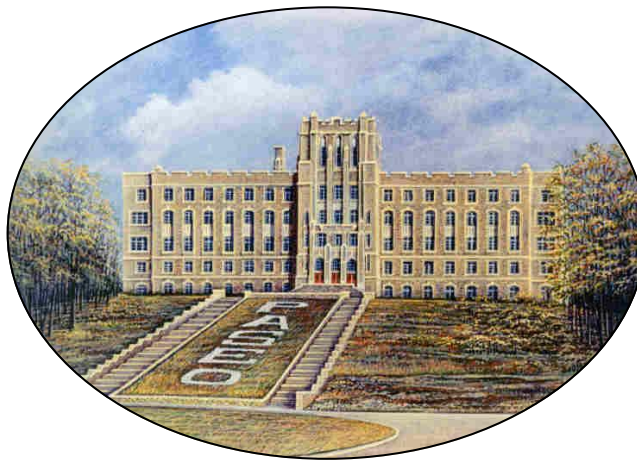
Northeast High School



Van Horn High School



Lincoln High School



Paseo High School



Southwest High School



Southeast High School



East High School



Manual High School



Westport High School

Early History of ...

The Kansas City Public School District

In the summer of 1867, Colonel William E. Sheffield, a lawyer with an office in the Frank Hall Building at Fifth and Main Street, invited a number of citizens to meet with him one evening in the office of Judge Elisha B. Gravens, in the City Hall. About a dozen persons attended this meeting. Colonel Sheffield was elected chairman of the meeting and, upon taking the chair; he explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the organization of a free public school system for the city. As a result of the discussion in this meeting, those present decided to continue to take the necessary steps for this purpose.

Under an act passed by the State of Missouri, The School District of the City of Kansas, Missouri, now Kansas City, was founded. Under the authority of this act, the Board of Education of the City of Kansas was organized August 1, 1867, with the following members: William E. Sheffield, President; H.C. Kumpf, Secretary; J.A. Achman, Treasurer; Edward H. Allen, T.B. Lester and E.H. Spalding.

Prior to that time the only schools within the limits of the City of Kansas were private and parochial schools. Some of them were "subscription" schools. These schools were often conducted for only a few months each year. It is stated by one of the historians of Kansas City that in the year 1866, the year prior to the organization of the Kansas City public school system, there were in Kansas City two colleges, two seminaries (academies), and twelve primary schools; all were private schools.

As soon as the Kansas City School District was organized, it established a system of public schools with seven elementary grades and with a provision for certain high school subjects to be taught at the Central School, the beginning of the Kansas City system of high schools.

There were no public school buildings in Kansas City in 1867 so classes and administration were held in rented buildings. The Board of Directors proceeded at once to begin the erection of public school buildings. The Washington School was the first building opened in April, 1868. The Humboldt School was opened in November, 1868.

In the first year, 1867-1868, the Board of Directors provided a school term of forty weeks for the children of the school district. During the first three years of the operation of the Kansas City schools, the following subjects were taught in the elementary grades: Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Orthography (Spelling), Grammar, Geography, History and Physiology.

Admission to the high school in the early years was by examination. The first high school class consisted of only five students, who graduated in June, 1873. This class of five was composed of three girls and two boys.

In 1870-1871, bookkeeping was added to the high school offerings and in the year 1871-1872, French was added.

In these early years the only commercial subject offered was bookkeeping. There were no such courses as typewriting, shorthand, business arithmetic, office practice, or commercial law. Neither were there any homemaking courses, such as sewing, cooking, or child care, and there were no courses in industrial arts or manual training. At the time, no one had any thought of such courses as metals, upholstery, leather work, printing, photography, etc.

In the early high school, no formal courses were offered in physical education or in art or music. There was some instruction in singing and there was work in elocution or public speaking.

During the first two years of the operation of the Kansas City schools, the high school subjects that were desired by the students were taught at the Central School by the Superintendent of Schools. No formally organized or recognized high school course schedule was established until the school year of 1869-1870.

In the fall of 1869, there was officially established a regular four year high school course of study and the following subjects were offered:

1869 High School Curriculum

<u>First Year</u>	<u>Second year</u>	<u>Third year</u>	<u>Fourth year</u>
English	English	English (Rhetoric)	Rhetoric
Higher Arithmetic	Higher Algebra	Astronomy	English Literature
Algebra	Geometry	Trigonometry	Analytical Geometry
Physical Geography	Chemistry	Surveying	Mental Philosophy
Natural Philosophy	Geology	Botany	Moral Philosophy
Latin	Universal History	Physiology	Latin
German	Latin	Latin	Greek
	Greek	Greek	U.S. Constitution
	German	German	

Grade Schools in the City

Most schools were founded in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The following typifies the hardships in the lives and experiences at the turn of the 20th Century.

School sessions typically began in a two room frame building and carried with it the hardships of a pioneer in a sparsely settled country district. The streets were ungraded, there were no sidewalks and stepping stones were the only crossings over very muddy roads. Small children were often carried across the roads to the school yard by older boys who wore high rubber boots or were barefooted. In the winter, big coal stoves heated the poorly built rooms very unevenly. Brains simmered while toes froze and children near the big stove drowsed in the warmth while those near the windows shivered in their wraps. At recess the ice in the row of water buckets on the bench in the school yard was broken to get a drink. When it was too snowy to go out, the buckets and dippers were brought into the school room.

With the hardships of the pioneer came all the joys of the country. Throughout the autumn and the warm spring days, windows were opened to let in the fresh, smokeless air. The grassy school yards were ideal for games and studies and the views were superb in all seasons of the year.

The city was rapidly growing southward, the streets around the schools became graded and

paved, homes were being built and the children began going to school in a much improved atmosphere.

Junior High Schools

At the close of World War I, the development of a junior high school system was under way. Central Junior High School opened in 1920 although, for two years before that date the seventh grade students of the elementary schools, Horace Mann, Linwood and Sanford B. Ladd, had been transferred to the Central High School building and became a first year Junior High school group. Westport Junior High School was opened in 1921; Northeast Junior High School in 1922 and West Junior High School in 1926.

High Schools in Kansas City

Records show a total high school enrollment in 1869-1870 of 61 students. In the 1870-1871 school year, enrollment increased by 11 students to a total of 72. By the 1875-1876 school year, high school enrollment jumped to 249 students with 88 boys and 161 girls. In those early years the percentage of high school attendance continued to grow more rapidly than the population of the City.

By 1881-1882, the high school enrollment had grown to 305. Ten years later, 1891-1892, the enrollment at Central High School was 990 and Lincoln Elementary School, a black school established in the 1881-1882 school year, had an enrollment of 70 students making a total of 1060 students enrolled in Kansas City high schools. By 1896-1897, enrollment topped the 2,000 mark at 2,098. The following year, the Manual Training High School was opened and the combined high school enrollment increased by 700, making total high school enrollment 2,798.

In 1898-1899 High School enrollment was 3,116. By 1905-1906, it grew to 4,039 and in 1912-1913, total enrollment was 5,096. Nine years later in 1921-1922 the 10,000 high school enrollment mark was surpassed.

The first high school in Kansas City, Central, was officially established in 1869; the second, Lincoln High School, a black school, in 1891. The third high school established was Manual Training High School established in 1897 and the fourth, Westport, by annexation, in 1899. These four high schools served the city until 1914 when Northeast High School was opened. In 1915, the new Central High School at Linwood and Indiana was opened. This school was the successor to the old Central High at Eleventh and Locust Streets. For the following ten years, the City grew, high school attendance continued to grow and overcrowding in the high schools became difficult. In 1925 Southwest High School was opened and the following year, 1926, both East High School and the beautiful Paseo High School, were opened. Southeast High School was established in 1938 and Van Horn High School was opened in 1955.

School Colors and Mascot

School	Colors	Mascot
Central High School	Blue and White	Eagles
East High School	Green and Black	Bears
Lincoln High School	Old Gold and Blue	Tigers
Manual High School	Red and White	Cardinals
Northeast High School	Purple and White	Vikings
Paseo High School	Scarlet, Gold and Black	Pirates
Southeast High School	Scarlet and Royal Blue	Knights
Southwest High School	Orange and Black	Indians
Van Horn High School	Red and Gray	Falcons
Westport High School	Gold and Blue	Tigers

Junior College in Kansas City

The old Central High School building became the home of the Polytechnic Institute and Junior College. The Polytechnic Institute in the early years of its operation had six divisions which were: the Junior College, the Teachers College, the School of Mechanic Arts, a High School, a Business College and a Trade School. As the school developed, the Junior College became the dominant department and interest. The other divisions were discontinued, transferred or merged with the Junior College. The name was changed to Junior College.

The Junior College emphasized two years of academic work as preparation for Senior College work; one two year course led to the degree of Associate in Arts, A.A. Another two year course became the degree of Associate in Science, A.S. The first course was general; the second was prepared especially for engineering colleges.

The Junior College continued its two year business course on a college level and later offered a degree of Associate in Commerce, A.C., to students completing the course. The Teachers College was transferred to the Woodland Elementary School building and became the Kansas City Teachers College. It expanded its offerings into a full four years of college training for teachers. With the break-up of schools the enrollment in the Junior College division dropped to 234 students in the 1915-1916 school year. However, enrollment grew to 2,387 by 1947-1948.

Chronological Timeline

First Appointments and Events

- 1874 - **The Greenwood Club** was founded; **the oldest literary organization** connected with the public school system and named after J.M. Greenwood, School Superintendent.
- 1880 - J.W. Jenkins was appointed to **Business Agent for the Board of Education**.
- 1881 - Ms. Carrie Westlake Whitney was appointed as the **first Librarian in the District**.
- 1885 - **Physical Education** was introduced to the School District by Carl Betz.
- 1886 - Carl Betz was appointed **Supervisor of Calisthenics** for elementary schools. Joseph H. Brady was appointed **Chief Engineer in charge of buildings and grounds**.
- 1887 - **Oakley School District #2 was annexed** to the Kansas City School District.
- 1889 - **The First Library Building**, built by the School District, was opened, 8th & Oak.
- 1890 - **Supervisor of Music**, S.C. Bennett, was appointed.
The First Assistant Superintendent of Schools, L.A. Fitzpatrick, was appointed.
- 1891 - The **first Field Day of elementary schools** was held in Exposition Park.
Manual Training, (Industrial Arts) was introduced into the elementary schools.
The first **Manual Training class** was held in the GARRISON School.
Mrs. Mary E. Griffin organized **the first Kindergarten** in the Emerson School.
- 1895 - **Kindergarten was made a part of the elementary school system**, starting at EMERSON.
- 1897 - **Courses in Shorthand and typewriting** were offered in all high schools.
- 1899 - Dr. Fred Burger was appointed **Supervisor of Physical Training** in elementary schools.
Ashland School District was annexed by the Kansas City School District.
Ivanhoe School District was annexed by the Kansas City School District.
Manchester School District was annexed by Kansas City School District.
Westport School District was annexed by the Kansas City School District.
The **first Branch Library** was established at Westport High School.

- 1900 - John S. Anthony was appointed **Supervisor of Drawing**, beginning of the Art Department.
Miss Cora L. English was appointed **Supervisor of Kindergartens**.
A **special instructor in Manual Training** was appointed for elementary grades.
- 1903 - **Theodore Roosevelt came to town** and 30,000 school children viewed a parade and waved flags between 9th and 15th Streets and The Paseo.
- 1904 - **The school year was extended** from 9 to 10 months.
A new salary schedule for Teachers was adopted by the Board of Education.
- 1905 - Miss Essie Heyle was appointed **Supervisor of Home Economics**.
A **Department of Attendance was established**, Miss Nellie Flanigan appointed Supervisor.
- 1907 - Roy A. Michaels appointed **Supervisor of Manual Training** for elementary grades.
- 1912 - H.C. Holt was appointed **Supervisor of Penmanship**.
Elizabeth Buchanan and Elma J. Webster were appointed **District Superintendents**.
- 1917 - **R.O.T.C., Reserve Officers Training Corps** initiated due to World War I.
Springfield **Special School for crippled girls established**, 28th & Troost.
- 1918 - **Lincoln School changed name to W.W. YATES**, 11th & Campbell.
- 1919 - **Group Intelligence testing** began.
- 1922 - The first course of study in **Safety Education** was prepared.
First Young People's Concert was held in Kansas City.
- 1925 - Miss Rose Wickey was appointed **Director of Curriculum**.
- 1947 - **Ruhl – Hartman**, in honor of A Louis Ruhl, **annexed** by Kansas City School District.
- 1948 - **Eighth grade students** were **sent to High Schools**.
- 1955 - **Sugar Creek School District annexed** by Kansas City School District.
- 1957 - **Rock Creek School District** was **annexed**.
Pitcher-Fairview School District was **annexed**.
- 1973 - **Pleasant Valley District** was **annexed**.

The District Superintendents...

Superintendent	Years of Service
J. B. Bradley	1867-1868
E. P. Tucke	1868-1869
John R. Phillips	1869-1874
James M. Greenwood	1874-1913
Ira I. Cammack	1913-1928
George Melcher	1928-1940
Herold C. Hunt	1940-1947
Roscoe V. Shores (Acting)	1947-1948
Harold E. Moore	1948-1950
Roscoe V. Shores (Acting)	1950-1952
Mark W. Bills	1952-1955
Roscoe V. Shores (Acting)	1955-1955
James A. Hazlett	1955-1969
Donald Hair (Acting)	1969-1970
J. Glenn Travis (Acting)	1970-3 months
Andrew S. Adams	1970-1973
J. Glenn Travis (Acting)	1973-4 months
Robert L. Medcalf	1973-1975
Edward E. Fields (Interim-Acting)	1975-1977
Robert R. Wheeler	1977-1982
John A. Minor, Jr.	1982-1985
Eugene E. Eubanks (Interim)	1985-1 month
Claude G. Perkins	1985-1986
Jasper W. Harris (Interim)	1986-1987
George F. Garcia	1987-1991
Walter Marks	1991-1995
Larry Ramsey (Interim-Acting)	1995-10 months
Willey Giles (Interim-Acting)	1995-1996
Ida Love (Interim-Acting)	1996-2 months
Henry P. Williams	1996-1998
Phyllis Chase (Interim-Acting)	1998-1998
Bonnie McKelvy (Interim-Acting)	1998-1999
Benjamin Demps	1999-2001
Bernard Taylor	2001-2006
Anthony Amato	2006-2008
John Martin (Acting)	2008-2008
Clive Coleman (Interim)	2008-2009
John Covington	2009-Present

School Superintendents



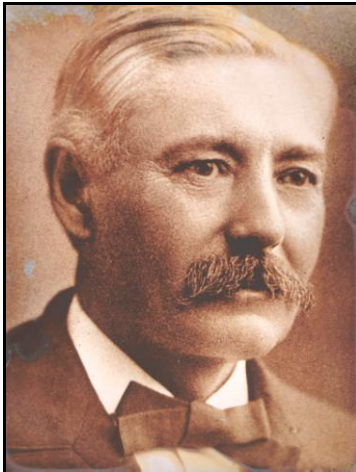
J. B. Bradley
1867-1868



E. P. Tucke
1868-1869



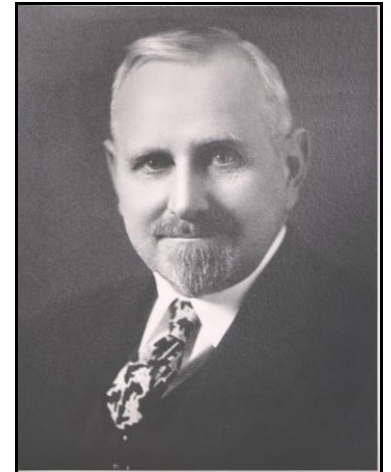
John R Phillips
1869-1874



James M. Greenwood
1874-1913



Ira I. Cammack
1913-1928



George Melcher
1928-1940



Herold C. Hunt
1940-1947



Roscoe V. Shores
1947-1948, 1950-1952 & 1955



Harold E. Moore
1948-1950

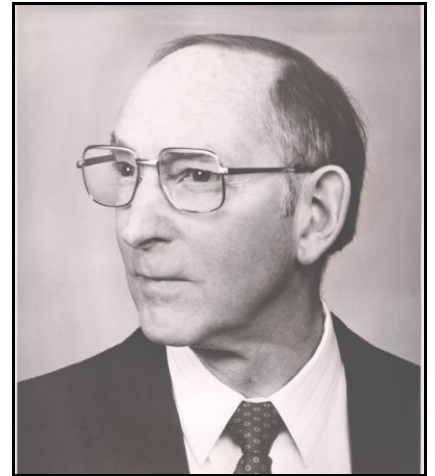
School Superintendents (cont.)



Mark W. Bills
1952-1955



James A. Hazlett
1955-1969



Donald Hair
1969-1970



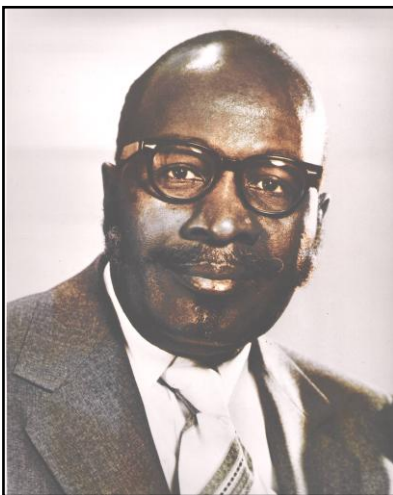
J. Glenn Travis
1970 & 1973



Andrew S. Adams
1970-1973



Robert L. Medcalf
1973-1975



Edward E. Fields
1975-1977



Robert R. Wheeler
1977-1982

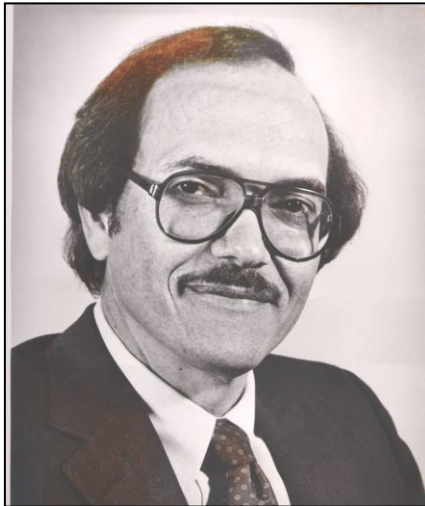


John A. Minor Jr.
1982-1985

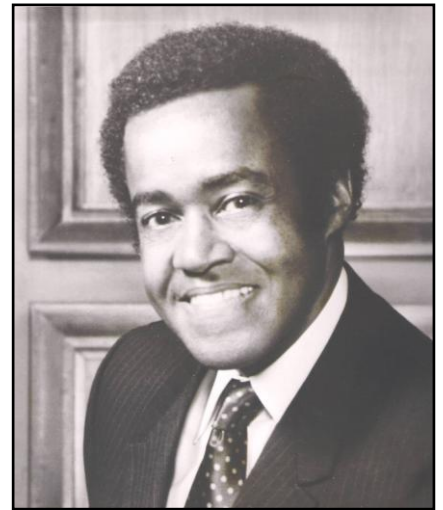
School Superintendents (cont.)



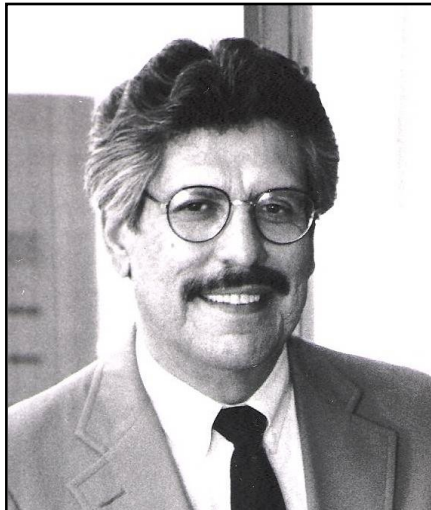
Eugene E. Eubanks
1985-1985



Claude G. Perkins
1985-1986



Jasper W. Harris
1986-1987



George F. Garcia
1987-1991



Walter Marks
1991-1995

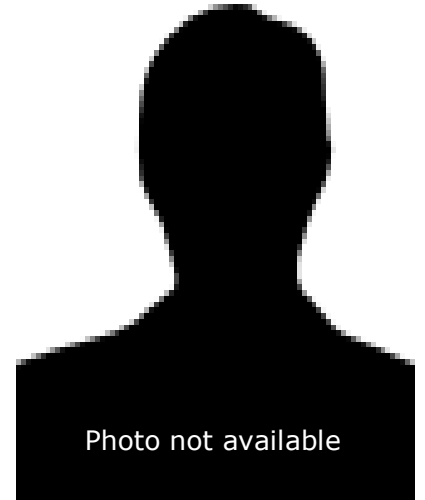


Photo not available

Larry Ramsey
1995-1995



Willie A. Giles
1995-1996



Ida H. Love
1996-1996



Henry P. Williams
1996-1998

School Superintendents (cont.)



Phyllis Chase
1998-1998



Bonnie McKelvy
1998-1999



Benjamin Demps, Jr.
1999-2001



Bernard Taylor, Jr.
2001-2006



Anthony Amato
2006-2008



John Martin
2008-2008



Clive Coleman
2008-2009



John Covington
2009-Present

A Chronology of School Openings

- 1867 - **WASHINGTON** School, 8th & Cherry, opened prior to the start of the School District.
CENTRAL School, 11th & Locust, many programs and high school courses started here.
W.W. YATES School. First black school, became LINCOLN, Chestnut & McGee.
- 1868 - **HUMBOLDT** School, 12th & Locust, in honor of Wilhelm von Humboldt.
BENTON School, 14th & Liberty, became WEST KANSAS School in 1869.
- 1869 - **CENTRAL** School changed name to CENTRAL HIGH School, 11th & Locust.
WEST KANSAS School, 14th & Liberty, first Black/Hispanic school, later added Jr & Sr High
FRANKLIN School, 14th & Washington, in honor of Benjamin Franklin.
LINCOLN School, 9th & Charlotte, in honor of Abraham Lincoln, first black school.
- 1870 - **LATHROP** School, 8th & May.
MORSE School, 20th & Charlotte.
- 1871 - **WOODLAND** School, 8th & Woodland, built in densely wooded area.
- 1880 - **KARNES** School, 4th & Troost, in honor of J.V.C. Karnes, Board of Education President.
- 1881 - **CHACE** School, 14th & Paseo, in honor of C.A. Chace, School Board member.
- 1882 - **SWITZER** School, 18th & Madison, in honor of Henry Switzer, School Board member.
- 1883 - **SUMNER** School, 9th & Wyoming.
WENDELL PHILLIPS School, 19th & Cherry, became CHERRY STREET School in 1919.
MARTIN School, Garland & Rochester Streets.
- 1884 - **JEFFERSON** School, 17th & Garfield, in honor of Thomas Jefferson.
- 1886 - **WEBSTER** School, 17th & Wyandotte.
GARFIELD School, Wabash & Amie Avenue.
BRYANT School, Howard & Vine Street.
ADAMS School, 24th & Mercier.
GARRISON School, a black school, 4th & Forest, in honor of William Lloyd Garrison.

- DOUGLASS** School, a black school, 27th & Jackson.
- 1887 - **OAKLEY** School, Independence & Kensington Avenues, became THACHER in 1898.
LATHROP School, 12th & Central.
LINCOLN HIGH School, 11th & Campbell, built adjacent to the elementary school.
EMERSON School, Tracy & Pacific, in honor of Ralph Waldo Emerson.
- 1888 - **CLAY** School, 7th & Bennington, in honor of Henry Clay.
IRVING School, 24th & Prospect, in honor of Washington Irving.
JACKSON School, 12th & Ewing, in honor of Andrew Jackson.
- 1889 - **WHITTIER** School, 11th & Indiana, in honor of John Greenleaf Whittier.
SCARRITT School, Lexington & Woodward Avenues.
- 1890 - **HAMILTON** School, 15th & Campbell.
LOWELL School, 27th & Madison.
LINWOOD School, Linwood & Woodland Avenue.
LONGFELLOW School, 29th & Holmes.
PAGE School, 26th & Rochester.
- 1893 - **ATTUCKS** School, 18th & Garfield, in honor of Cripus Attucks.
- 1894 - **YEAGER** School, 19th & Indiana, in honor of Robert L. Yeager, Board member.
- 1897 - **MANUAL TRAINING HIGH** School, 15th & Forest.
BRUCE School, 15th & Jackson, a black school, founded by Nathaniel Bruce.
- 1898 - **THACHER** School, Independence & Quincy, in honor of Luin I. Thacher, Board member.
- 1899 - **ASHLAND** School, 24th & Elmwood, from the Ashland District.
HORACE MANN School, 39th & Euclid, from Ivanhoe District, formerly IVANHOE School.
KENSINGTON School, 17th & Brighton, from the Ashland District.
MANCHESTER School, 17th & Bristol, from the Manchester District.
ALLEN School, 41st & Summit Street, from Westport District.
PENN School, Pennsylvania & Archibald Streets, from Westport District.
WESTPORT HIGH School, 39th & Warwick, from Westport District.
HEDRICK/ROLLINS School, 43rd & Oak, from Westport District.
HYDE PARK School, 34th & Cherry, from Westport District.

- 1900 - **GREENWOOD** School, 27th & Cleveland, in honor of James W. Greenwood, School Supt.
- 1901 - **NORMAN** School, 36th & Jefferson.
- 1902 - **JAMES** School, Scarritt & Topping, in honor of J.C. James, School Board President.
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON School, 29th & Norton.
- 1903 - **BENJAMIN HARRISON** School, Independence & Wallace annexed from Beaumont Dist.
BLUE VALLEY School, 12th & Central.
ROLLINS School, 41st & Main.
- 1904 - **HEDRICK** School, 43rd & Oak, from Westport District, re-located to 41st & Main and re-named **ROLLINS** School.
VAN HORN School, named after Robert T. Van Horn.
BENTON School, 36th & Benton Blvd, named after Thomas H. Benton, Mo. US Senator.
BANCROFT School, 43rd & Tracy.
- 1907 - **FAXON** School, 37th & Virginia.
McCOY School, 16th & White.
WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT School, 24th & Vine, changed to WENDELL PHILLIPS in 1908.
LYKINS School, 7th & Spruce.
- 1908 - **McCUNE** Farm Home for boys.
WENDELL PHILLIPS School, 24th & Vine.
E.C. WHITE School, in honor of E.C. White, Principal of Central High School.
G.B. LONGAN School, 49th & Main, in honor of George B. Longan, Assistant Sup't.
- 1910 - **SWOPE** School, 55th & Cleveland, annexed, formerly HAYES School, later MARK TWAIN.
PHYLLIS WHEATLEY School, a Black School, 54th & Montgall, annexed.
FRANCES WILLARD School, 50th & Garfield.
MILTON MOORE School, 31st & Cypress.
E.F. SWINNEY School, 46th & Prospect.
- 1911 - **BRISTOL** School, 15th & Hedges, annexed.
MT. WASHINGTON School, annexed.
SIXTY FIRST STREET School, annexed.
TROOST AVENUE School, 60th & Troost, annexed.

BORDER STAR School, 63rd & Wornall, annexed.

LATHROP INDUSTRIAL School, 13th & Central.

1912 - **ASKEW** School, 26th & Topping.

BOONE School, 89th & Wornall, land was purchased from Daniel Boone II, Grandson of the infamous frontiersman. Annexed by KC District, but later returned to Center District.

H.H. COOK School, 73rd & Pennsylvania, in honor of Hale H. Cook.

H.C. KUMPF School, 45th & Olive, in honor of Henry C. Kumpf, first Secretary of Board.

S.B. LADD School, 37th & Walrond, in honor of Sanford B. Ladd.

SEVEN OAKS School, 39th & Cleveland.

SEVEN OAKS ALLEN School, 39th & Topping.

SHILOH School, 70th & Askew, annexed, became W.A. Knotts School in 1923.

1914 - **BLLENHEIM** School, 71st & Olive.

J.S. CHICK School, 50th & Elmwood, in honor of J.S. Chick.

NORTHEAST HIGH School opened, 4900 East Independence Avenue.

1915 - **CENTRAL HIGH** School moved to Linwood & Indiana.

GRACELAND School, 51st & Chestnut.

MARLBOROUGH School, 74th & Tracy.

GLADSTONE School, Lakota & Elmwood.

MARK TWAIN School, 60th & Jackson.

MADISON School for the Deaf & Special, 29th & Wyandotte.

JUNIOR COLLEGE was established.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE established, 11th & Locust, old Central High School.

1916 - **LATHROP TRADE** School was established.

1917 - **JANE HAYES GATES INSTITUTE** for girls was established for Vocational Training.

DUNBAR School, 36th & Oakley, in honor of Paul Lawrence Dunbar.

LEEDS School annexed, built in 1887, 37th & Eastern.

1918 - **J.J. PERSHING** School, 59th & Park, in honor of General John J. Pershing.

1919 - **CHERRY STREET** School, 19th & Cherry.

1920 - **CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH** School.

SPRINGFIELD School for Visual Education acquired, 31st & Springfield.

WESTPORT JUNIOR HIGH School, 39th & McGee.

1922 - **NORTHEAST JUNIOR** HIGH School.

1923 - **WILLIAM R. NELSON** School, 52nd & Charlotte.
WILLIAM A. KNOTTS School, 70th & Bales.
E.C. MESERVEY School, 45th & Jackson.

1924 - **THOMAS A. EDISON** Disciplinary School, 1400 Independence Avenue.

1925 - **SOUTHWEST HIGH** School

1926 - **PASEO HIGH** School
EAST HIGH School
STARK ACRES School, 17th & Blue Ridge.
J.C. NICHOLS School, 69th & Oak.
FAIRMONT LAKE School, changed to CARLISLE in 1927.
WEST JUNIOR HIGH School, 14th & Liberty

1927 - **BOY'S HOTEL CAMP**, Bo-Ho-Ca, Martin City, Missouri, School for delinquent boys.

1930 - **JOHN F. STARK** School, 17th & Blue Ridge.
R.J. DeLANO School for Crippled Children, 31st & Cleveland.

1931 - **D.M. PINKERTON** School, 64th & Agnes.

1938 - **SOUTHEAST HIGH** School

1945 - **GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER** School, 15th & Campbell.

1947 - **BENJAMIN BANNEKER** School, 17th & Garfield, in honor of Benjamin Banneker.
WILLIAM VOLKER school, 37th & Wyoming.

1955 - **VAN HORN HIGH** School, 1109 Arlington, in honor of Robert T. Van Horn.

1957 - **EAST ROCK CREEK** Kindergarten, 11801 East 32nd Street.
WEST ROCK CREEK School, 8820 East 27th Street.
NORTH ROCK CREEK School, 24th & South Hardy.
SOUTH ROCK CREEK School, 25th & South Hardy.
PITCHER School, 9701 East 35th Street.
FAIRVIEW School, Highway 40 & Fairview Road.
FAIRVIEW-PITCHER JUNIOR HIGH School, 38th & Pittman Road.

1960 - **GEORGE MELCHER** School, 39th & Chelsea.

1963 - **RICHARDSON** School, 35th & Park.

1966 - **CHILDREN'S SHELTER** School, 27th & Gilham Road.

LINWOOD WEST School, 1600 East Linwood.

1968 - **C.A.FRANKLIN** School, 34th & Highland.

MARY HARMON WEEKS School, 42nd & Indiana.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR HIGH School 42nd & Indiana.

The Kansas City Public Library

Directors and Librarians

- 1874-1881 James Greenwood
- 1881-1911 Carrie Whitney (first appointed librarian)
- 1911-1936 Purd Wright
- 1936-1939 Irene Gentry (interim)
- 1939-1942 Louis M. Nourse
- 1942-1943 Priscilla Burd (interim)
- 1943-1947 Harold Hamill
- 1947-1950 Harry Brinton (interim)
- 1950-1968 Richard B. Sealock
- 1968-1973 Stephen Kirk
- 1974-1983 Harold Jenkins
- 1983-2003 Daniel J. Bradbury
- 2004-2005 Roger Pearson (interim)
- 2005-Current R. Crosby Kemper III

Significant Events

1873

- The Board of Education resolved that there be established in connection with the schools, a library to be known as the Public School Library of Kansas City.
- ♦ For \$8, the Board purchased a bookcase and eight volumes of the New American Encyclopedia from Col. W.E. Sheffield, to start the Library. Col. Sheffield was the President of the Board of Education.
- ♦ The first **Main Library** was located in the Central High School at 11th and Locust.

1874

- ♦ The **Main Library** was moved to the Sage Building located at 8th and Main.
- ♦ James M. Greenwood was appointed Superintendent of Schools and supervisor of the Library.

1876

- Formal Library rules were adopted and patrons could purchase yearly subscriptions for \$2 or lifetime borrowing privileges for \$10.

1878

- The **Main Library** and Board of Education offices moved to the Piper Building, 546 Main Street.

1879

- A Library Reading Room opened to the general public during evening hours.

1881

- Superintendent Greenwood appointed Mrs. Carrie Westlake Whitney as the first Librarian.

1884

- The **Main Library** was relocated to the 2nd floor of a building at the corner of 8th and Walnut.

1889

- A new **Main Library** building was constructed at 8th and Oak at a cost of \$11,100.

1892

- All high school students were given free access to the Library.

1897

- The **Main Library** at 9th and Locust opened. The two-story building housed several reference rooms, a lecture hall, art gallery, museum, and a bindery.

- **1898**

- The Library was opened to the public and no longer charged a subscription fee.
- The **Westport***, **Allen Library** became the first branch of the Library when Westport, MO was annexed by the city of Kansas City.



**Library at 8th and Oak -
1889-97**



**Main Library at 9th and
Locust- opened in 1897**

1911

- **Switzer Branch** opened and became the first of several branch libraries to be housed in a public school building.

1912

- Dewey Decimal classification system was adopted.

1913

- **Louis George Branch** opened at 25th and Holmes, the first phase of a Library District expansion plan and the first free-standing branch library.
- Small sub-branch libraries opened at the Jewish Educational Institute and the Swope Settlement.

1914

- **Northeast Branch** opened in Northeast High School. This was the first conscious effort to combine the public schools and the public library branches.
- **Garrison Square Branch** opened near Garrison Square Park, the first branch to specifically provide service to the African-American community.

1915

- **Central Branch** opened in the Central High School and the **Swinney Branch** opened in the Swinney Elementary School.

1916

- **Karnes Branch, Kensington Branch, and Mark Twain Branch** opened in their respective Elementary schools.

1921

- **Blue Valley Branch** opened in the Jackson School and in 1940 was moved to the Manchester School.

1922

- **Lincoln Branch** opened in Lincoln High School to provide more complete service to the city's African-American residents.
- The Library system passed one million in circulation.

1925

- **Washington Branch** opened in Mount Washington School.

1926

- Dewey Decimal reclassification and cataloging of the entire Library collection was completed.
- **Paseo Branch** opened in Paseo High School.

1927

- **West Branch** opened in the West Junior High School and the **Southwest Branch** opened in Southwest High School.

1931

- The Library system passed two million in circulation.

1932

- **East Branch** opened in the East High School.

1937

- **Center Branch** opened in the Jewish Community Center.

1938

- **Southeast Branch** opened at Southeast High School.

1950

- A 30-foot library truck, Kansas City's first bookmobile service was introduced, circulating an estimated 100,000 books in its first year.

1955

- **Van Horn Branch** opened in the Van Horn High School.

1958

- Circulation reached three million.

1960

- New **Main Library** opened in the School District Building at 12th and McGee.
- **Missouri Valley Room** opened on the 3rd floor of the Main Library, housing the Library's reference collections in local history, genealogy, and Western history.



Library bookmobile - 1950

1967

- **Plaza Branch*** Library opened at the corner of Brookside Blvd. and Main St., former site of the E.C. White school, becoming the first full-service community branch.

1968

- ♦ **Wayne Miner Branch** opened in the Wayne Miner Recreational Center.
- ♦ **Prospect Branch** opened and merged with Lucille Bluford Branch in 1988.
- ♦ **Boys Club Branch** opened and merged with Lucille Bluford Branch in 1988.

1969

- The Braille Library was moved into the Main Library.

1971

- ♦ **Benton Branch** opened and later merged with the Lucille Bluford Branch in 1988.
- ♦ **Linwood Center Branch** opened and merged with Lucille Bluford Branch in 1988.

1973

- Library celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

1974

- ♦ **Seven Oaks Branch** opened in the Seven Oaks Shopping Center.

1981

- Library joined the Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC) to access online information.

1985

- The Library established reciprocal lending agreements with other Kansas City area library systems.
- First public access to computers was installed in the Main Library and six branch libraries.

1986

- ♦ **Waldo Branch** opened at 75th and Wornall.
- ♦ The **Landing Branch** opened in the Landing Shopping Center.
- ♦ **Northeast Branch*** opened in the Northeast Shopping Center.

1987

- Online catalog access became available at all Library branches.

1988

- **District voters approved the separation of the Library from the Kansas City, Missouri School District** with a 67% majority.
- **Lucile H. Bluford Branch*** and **South (Waldo Community) Branch*** opened.
- Compact discs were added to the Library's circulating collection.

1989

- The Library District's first Board organized and elected Mary Arney as its first president.
- **Trails West Branch*** and **Southeast Branch*** opened.



First National Bank 1989

1990

- Dial Access to the KACEY, a computerized catalog was made available to home computer users. Automated telephone renewal services were also instituted.
- Card catalogs were removed from the Main Library.

1993

- Online access to general and business periodicals was introduced at the Main Library.

1995

- Library launched its first public website.

1996

- **Southeast Branch*** opened.
- **Sugar Creek Branch*** opened.

1998

- The Library celebrated its 125th Anniversary.
- Library cardholders surpassed 200,000.

1999

- Library opened a Technology Center and began training classes for the public.

2000

- The Special Collection Department's Local History Index was made accessible online.

2001

- **New West Branch**, was renamed the **Irene H. Ruiz Biblioteca de las Americas***.
- Plaza Branch Library closed its doors due to the building's structural problems; moved to a temporary location at 301 E. 51st Street.

2004

- The new **Central Library*** was opened at 10th and Baltimore in the historic First National Bank building.
- Dedication of the Missouri Valley Room in the new Central Library was held.



**Central Library – 2008 10th
and Baltimore**

2005

- A KC Research website was launched through funding by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.
- New **Plaza Branch Library*** opened at 48th and Main.
- Library began offering downloadable e-books.

2007

- Stanley H. Durwood Film Vault opened in the lower level of the Central Library.

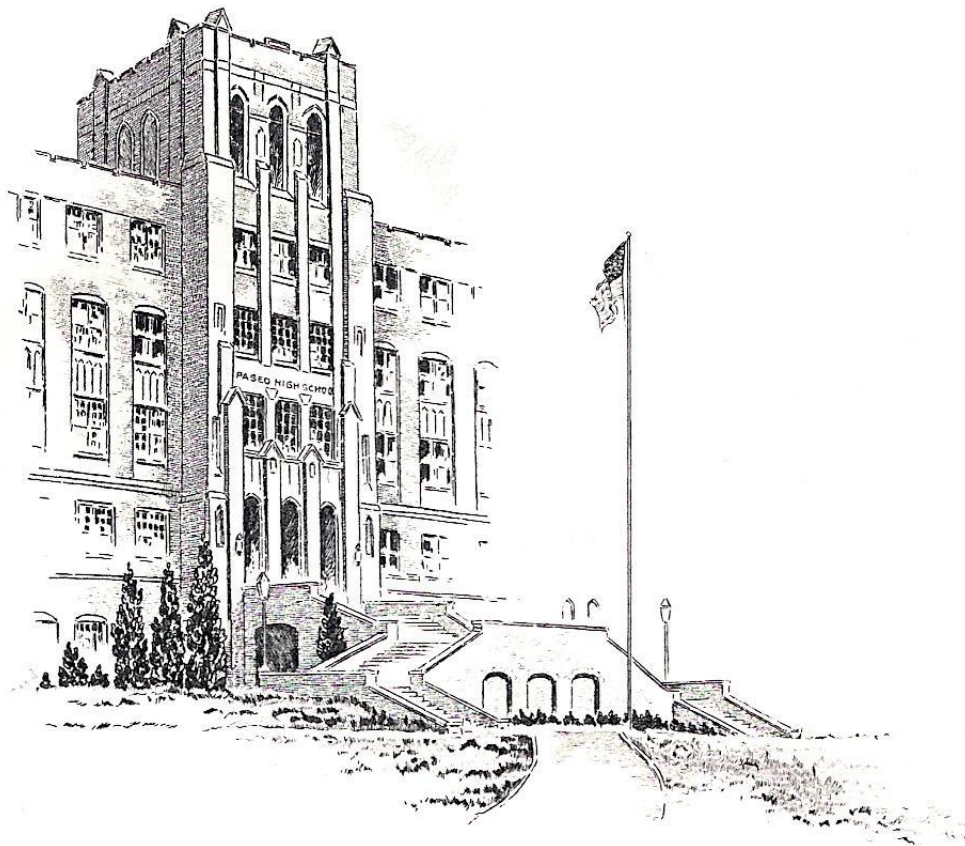
2008

- Truman Forum and auditorium opened in the lower level of the Plaza Branch.



Plaza Branch - 2008

Paseo
of KANSAS CITY



Remember who you are