

MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL A CELEBRATION OF OVER 100 YEARS IN EDUCATION



August 10, 2013

Central Park Gym and Richard Green Elementary School

11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

1913 saw the opening of the newly constructed Minneapolis Central High School. It replaced an older building called Central High School, which was built in 1878. That building replaced a high school which was not named and that shared space with Winslow House beginning in 1860. In many ways, the Central High School we honor today began with that school over 150 years ago.

PLACES TO MEET AND GREET OTHER CENTRALITES

SCHOOL WEBSITE

<http://www.mplschs.org>

Team maintaining website:

Phillip Mortenson	Class of 1959	612-866-9242	pmorte@usfamily.net
Joyce Pedersen	Class of 1966	612-866-0282	centralhigh66@yahoo.com
Peter Halden	Class of 1959		pchalden@msn.com
Dan Dickey	Class of 1957		dandickey@comcast.net
Doug Congdon	Class of 1956		decongdon@gmail.com
Rick Stone	Class of 1961		rick@innelect.com

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

PIONEER LUNCHEONS

Men's group meets the first Tuesday of every even-numbered month –No RSVP required. Contact: Philip Mortenson (information above)

Women's group meets the second Tuesday of every even-numbered month- RSVP Required. Contact: Joyce Pedersen (information above)

Both groups meet at the Knights of Columbus, 1114 American Boulevard West, Bloomington, MN. Doors open 11:00 am

Class of 1957 meets for lunch, the first Wednesday of every month at Curran's, 4201 Nicollet, Minneapolis, MN Contact: Nancy Anderson Madson, 952-894-1486 madsons@usfamily.net

Class of 1958 meets for lunch, the third Friday of every month at Curran's 4201 Nicollet, Minneapolis, MN Contact: Gail Ziegler-Anderson 612-721-1993 gailmeredieth@msn.com

All 60s (1960-1969) meets at 10:30 a.m. at Pepito's, 4820 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis, MN Contact: Joyce Pedersen 612-866-0282 centralhigh66@yahoo.com

OVERVIEW OF HISTORY

In 1860, the newly appointed School Board recommended that a high school was needed for the then two related settlements which would in 1872 merge and incorporate as the City of Minneapolis.

This first high school, which had no name, was housed in the Winslow House and operated in two segments, known as the west-side department and the east-side department.

In 1878, a growth in population helped create the need for a separate Central High School. It was built on 11th Street about where Vocational High School later stood. This building was used from 1878 until 1913 when the larger school was constructed.



In 1908, planning began for this new building. Prior to this, the School Board had approved construction for East High School (no longer in use), West High School (no longer in use) and South High School (originally on Cedar Avenue). In 1915, North High School was constructed.

Central High School was designed to be a flagship school. In fact, in its January, 1914 issue, the magazine Western Architect wrote:

“Minneapolis is probably making greater advances than any other city in the Northwest in the design and construction of its school buildings.

Central High School is one of the most complete institutions of learning in the country.”

Indeed, architects, designers and school officials came from all over the country to see this remarkable new building.

Some of the features incorporated into this new design included:

Fire-proof Construction
A 20,000 Volume Library
Well-equipped Laboratories
A Botany Laboratory and Greenhouse
Extensive Manual Arts Areas
A 2,000 Seat Auditorium
2 Gymnasiums
A Swimming Pool
Large Windows

“The English-inspired design was placed on a terraced site and featured a prominent central arched entry flanked by towers edged with stone quoins and parapets.”

(Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission/Language Research/2005)

William B. Itner of St. Louis, one of the country’s leading school architects, was commissioned to design the building in collaboration with the Minneapolis firm of Hewitt and Brown.

In 1977, the two old gymnasiums were replaced with a larger, more functional facility. When Central High School was demolished in 1989, the new gym was retained and incorporated into the new Richard Green School.

The report from the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Committee concluded:

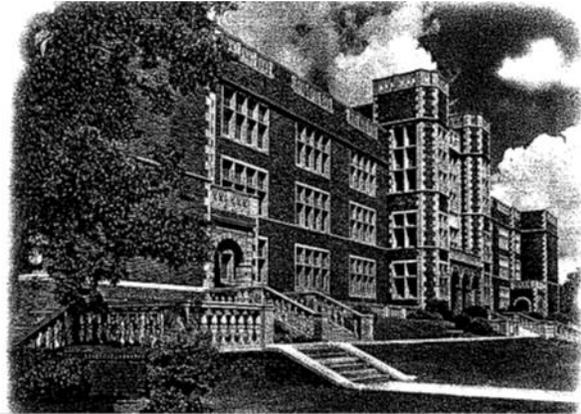
“Central High School set a standard for future public-school design, although no facility approached its size or grandeur for the next 50 years.”

The decision to demolish Central High School was made in the early 1980s due to the estimated cost of remodeling and renovation of the existing school. The last graduating class was in 1982.

Some pictures of CHS through the years are on the next page.



In Winter, after 35W is constructed



Summer from the south



CHS in winter, about 1961



CHS in 1913. Note the streetcar lines.



Artist's Version of new school in 1913



Student Drawing from 1923 Yearbook

GRADUATES

Over its 122 years, Central High School graduated approximately 85,000 students. Many of these went on to careers in government, the arts, business and sports. CHS graduates have raised families and have given those children, the spirit of CHS they learned during their high school careers. We are proud of the all CHS graduates but are pointing out a few that exemplify some of their achievements.

William (Pudge) Heffelfinger	Class of 1885	Athlete; Coach; One of the first to play football professionally
George Leach	Class of 1894	Politics, Athletics, Veteran
Bobby Marshall	Class of 1901	Athlete, Coach, First Black Quarterback at semi-pro level, First African-American High School Football Coach in MN at Minneapolis Central, Recognized by Minnesota Historical Society
Halsey Hall	Class of 1916	Broadcaster, Sportswriter
Cedric Adams	Class of 1919	Journalist, Columnist in Minneapolis Star, Radio/TV Personality
Eddie Albert	Class of 1926	Actor, Veteran, Environmentalist
Ann Sothern	Class of 1926	Actress on Stage, TV & Film
Robert S. Carney	Class of 1927	Attorney; FBI Agent; Community Leader
Lorraine Bunker Baeyen	Class of 1929	Dancer for Rockettes, on Broadway and in the New York theater
Eric Severeid	Class of 1930	Journalist, War Correspondent
Paul Norby	Class of 1931	Pilot, Trainer, Veteran
Orville Freeman	Class of 1936	Politics, State/National Leader, Governor of State of MN
John Kundla	Class of 1934	Athletics, Coach, Veteran
Fred Putnam	Class of 1936	Religious Leader, Photographer
Noel Neill	Class of 1938	Actress as Lois Lane in TV's Superman
Percy C. Hughes	Class of 1940	Music Performer – Jazz; Tennis, Veteran
Arne Johnson	Class of 1940	Athletics, Community leader, Founder of Bloomington Athletic Association
Harold Westerberg	Class of 1940	Veteran; Community Leadership; YMCA
Daniel D. Wozniak	Class of 1940	Pilot, Legislator, Leader for Cause (Right to Life) locally and nationally, Ambassador
Sam Lynn Hynes	Class of 1941	Veteran; Author; Pilot; Professor
Burt Carlson	Class of 1943	Elite Marathoner
John Finnegan	Class of 1943	Journalist, Advocate for Freedom of Information
Paul Theodore Granlund	Class of 1943	Artist, Sculptor, Internationally-known
Arnold Weisman Walker	Class of 1943	Singer/Actor; Radio Announcer
Earl Bowman	Class of 1945	Athletics, Coach at CHS beginning in 1954, First President of Metropolitan College
James Hong	Class of 1947	Actor- TV/Movies
Bill Kuross	Class of 1947	Athlete; Football Coach; Veteran; Businessman

Dale Durham	Class of 1949	Actor Local/Regional; TV, Radio, Industrials
Robert (Bob) Johnson	Class of 1949	Hockey Coach, both College and Professional
Johnny Blanchard	Class of 1951	Athletics, Professional Baseball Player
John Howard Sanden	Class of 1952	Nationally-Recognized Portrait Artist and Author
Walter E. McNeil	Class of 1952	Celebrity, Local and National, Known as "Wally the Beerman"
Jack Dickey	Class of 1953	Military, Fighter Pilot, Veteran
Thomas Matthews	Class of 1953	Journalist, Editor
Tom Brown	Class of 1954	Football Athlete, Big Ten/NFL
Dick Burg	Class of 1954	Athlete and Coach, Big Ten, NHL and Olympics
Joyce Hughes	Class of 1957	Law Professor, Scholar, Community/Civic Leadership
Betty (Wolden) Endicott	Class of 1959	TV News Journalist/Broadcaster; News Director
Gloria Davis	Class of 1960	Community Leadership/Social Development; Professor, Global Development; World Bank
Bobby Lyle	Class of 1962	Professional Musician/Recording Artist
Archie Givens	Class of 1962	Business Leader, Philanthropist, Preservationist of African-American Literature
William Joseph Senkyr	Class of 1964	Actor, Performer, Playwright, Businessman, Community Leadership
Benjamin McHie	Class of 1966	Educational Consultant; Founder/Director of African American Registry
Lewis E. Whitlock III	Class of 1967	Dancer; Actor; Choreographer; Director
Sharon Sayles Belton	Class of 1969	Politician Activist, Community and Government; Mayor of Minneapolis
Honorable Pamela Alexander	Class of 1970	Government, Leadership, Judge at County and State District Courts
Gary Hines	Class of 1970	Musical Performer/Director; Founder Sounds of Blackness
Gary Q. Lewis	Class of 1974	Actor, Dancer
Prince Nelson	Class of 1976	Singer/Musician, Globally Recognized, Award Winning

There are literally hundreds that show the character they learned from their parents, most of all, and for whom Central may have helped in guiding their lives.

We remember and thank our fellow Central High students who served in the United States Armed Forces for their self-sacrifice and commitment.

If you have any graduate you would like to nominate to the website for their achievement, large or small, please send the information to Joyce Pedersen in care of centralhigh66@yahoo.com.

MEMORIES

On the land that was my Central High School, now stand an elementary school, a clinic, a community gym, a tennis court, and ample parking. The only remnants of my memories are an inscription piece above the doors to the elementary school and the entrance gates to the now non-existence football field.

The center of my memories is a castle on terraced grounds holding a plethora of colorful trees and shrubs. Its towers frame entrances and outside walls are lined with windows to let in sunlight and fresh air.

But the real-life presence of this building has been taken away and I am left only with my memory-pictures. But I also feel the spirit that the physical Central High represented to its graduates.

This spirit was the result of the many lives that passed through its halls – students, teachers, custodians, office staff, lunchroom personnel, and many others.

Our teachers – some good, some great – had the goal of preparing us, their students, to take on the roles our futures required. Most of us had a favorite teacher or two whose influence helped shape our lives.

Non-teaching staff added to the ambiance of support and friendship that made school-life pleasurable. Indeed, many students bonded with members of this group and formed life-long relationships.

Students- what can I say about my fellow Centralites from all 122 graduation classes? We all came to Central with a little apprehension about what to expect and left more prepared to take on our futures. At Central, we celebrated with our athletic teams –winning or losing, and cheered with our cheerleaders. There were also class plays, auditorium assemblies, concerts, class trips, class yearbooks, clubs, etc. So by graduation date, we could, without any doubt, say:

**We are the Pioneers, mighty, mighty Pioneers,
Everywhere we go-o-o-o,
People want to know
Who we are.....
So we tell them:
We are the Pioneers, mighty, might Pioneers!!!**

***WE ARE STILL THE PIONEERS FROM MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL HIGH
SCHOOL! WE DON'T FORGET!***

Contributed by Barb Heinonen, Class of 1962

“Central brought me together with life-long friends that have enriched my whole life!” - Marilynn Ross Elise, Class of 1969

“Many people say High School was the worst time, I’d never go back. CHS was a gift, a joy, so many that have shaped my world and gave me friends for life!” - Paula (Herbst) Okorafon, Class of 1979

“Great teachers and role models- whether I knew it then or not- I certainly know it now. Magnet CHS, AP Classes, More language classes than any school! Fond memories of Snow Daze, Homecoming, and Student Government- Yeah!” - Mona Wong, Class of 1981

“Wow- turns out history, Spanish, even algebra are useful in real life! Especially the multi-culturalism learned by osmosis has been very helpful also!” - Suzay Kangas, Class of 1982

“I met the love of my life in the wrestling room, and Mrs. Lane inspired my love of biology!” - Jenny Bryan, Class of 1979

“My love of writing started here, and the sense of values and community have sustained me all through the years. Truly we are blessed and still standing.” - WD Foster-Graham, Class of 1970

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Class	Name	Class	Name
1980-81	Michelle Mullikin Chanak	1962	Diane Denoma Kemper
1962	Sharon Hunt Bair	1957	Nancy Anderson Madson
1979	Jenny Scott Bryan	1957	Sandra Knutson Meyerson
1968	John DeNoma	1964	William Joseph Senkyr
1961	Ed Feiker	1959	Phil Mortenson
1961	Tom Hansing	1965	Mark Patten
1961	Ron Hanson	1966	Marsha Lennon Patten
1962	Barb Heinonen	1966	Joyce Pedersen
1962	Harald Huglen	1969	Marilyn Ross Else
1969	Kirsti (Kris) Grodahl	1977	Pamela (Smith) Taylor-Berry
1964	Thornton "TJ" Jones		

HONORARY CHS GRADUATES

Art Erickson

Tom Hendricks

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED
MONEY AND/OR SERVICES TO MAKE THIS CELEBRATION OF OUR
MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL POSSIBLE.

YouTube links provided by John Ferman '47:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCRauyMmTAQ> (Preview)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clvtTehffc0> (Preview)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5Uq-Mali6k>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaLQ0hdC3S8> (Preview)