

The First High School

The movement to build a high school was started by John J. Arkabauer with the aid of then Superintendent Tipmer Rachow and others. In May 1917, plans for a new school building were drawn by architect Michael J. Kane of Edwardsville. The new building was to be erected east of the grade school playground. Classes were held in the frame grade school building in the fall of 1917 for the first high school class made up of only eight students.

The new school was a two-story, brick building with four rooms and a principal's office. Entering the front door there were stairs that led to the first floor where there were two classrooms. There were two sets of stairs that led to two additional classrooms and the principal's office on the second floor. Each classroom contained a cloakroom and outside each second floor classroom was a metal fire escape called a chute. These structures were large, hollow metal tubes that students literally slid down inside to reach ground level. The building was built atop a full basement where there were restrooms for both boys and girls. This is the first school building in Livingston that had "inside" restrooms. The children from the frame building now went to the brick building to use the restrooms. The furnace room and janitor's supply room were both in the basement. The furnace provided heat for both buildings.

The first class graduated in 1921. The graduation ceremony was held at the Eagle Theatre on Livingston Avenue north of the present day city hall. This class was unique as it had only one graduate, Jennie Best.

In 1926 the schools were again becoming overcrowded so a new high school was built and grades five, six, seven and eight were moved to the brick high school building. When this building was used as an elementary school, the library was in the principal's office until 1946 when a new library was built on the second floor over the first floor, entryway stairs. There also were two baseball fields on the east side of the brick school building – one for boys and one for girls.

This building continued as a grade school until the new A.R. Graiff School was built. This building was then torn down and apartment buildings were erected on the site.



First graduate of Livingston High School
Jennie Best

The First Livingston High School

The first high school was located on School Street next to the original grade school building. When the second high school was built, this building was converted to serve grades 5 through 8.



Mrs. Valerie Perne's Sixth Grade Class in the former first high school building after being converted to grades 5 through 8. 1954-1955

First row left: Gloria Lesicko, Jim Highlander, Sharon Balen, Nancy Guth, Karen Healey, Bob Leyden

Second row: Bob Philippi, Denis Karnosky, Ricky Ziglar, Joe Watchko, Nelda Mitchell, George Ulrich

Third row: Irvin Boulch, Marian Windisch, Raymond Barber, Linda Bendix, Ann Scroggins, Alva Huffman, Dennis Arndt

Fourth row: Nancy Augustine, Shirley Repovsch, Karen Karnosky, Linda Pacchetti



Earth moving equipment readies to demolish this grade school building (also the first high school) in 1973.

Scene of the grade school building being destroyed in order to make way for the Grade School Apartments owned by Jim and Michele (Kucinick) Muin.



The first of two apartments as they were being constructed on the site of the old grade school and first high school building

Second Livingston High School



As the community grew there became a need for another building to house high school classes. The new high school was built on a ten-acre tract of land at the south end of Livingston Avenue. The site was formerly used as a baseball park.

J.I. Gedney of East St. Louis was the contractor on the building project. He was the brother of Mrs. R. C. Berry of Livingston. The land was purchased for \$2,000.00, and the school was built at a cost of \$51,800.00.

The building was a two-story structure built of brown, mat brick with stone trim. Metal fire escape stairs extended down from the second floor on both the east and west side of the building. The basement housed the gymnasium, locker rooms and restroom facilities.

The main entrance on the north side of the building had a long flight of stairs to reach the first floor. At the right side of the stairwell was the girls' cloakroom and beyond was a classroom for Home Economics. It contained appliances and other items necessary for the teaching of cooking and sewing. Next to the classroom, at the foot of another flight of stairs, was the principal's office. The boys' cloakroom was on the left of the stairwell and another classroom was next door. This classroom was used for math and bookkeeping classes. Outside this classroom was another flight of stairs that led to the second floor.

Both sets of stairs led to a second-floor landing that opened to a large study hall. The room contained individual desks used by students to work on homework assignments. This room was also used for assemblies, plays and queen crownings. On the other side of the second-floor landing was a short flight of stairs that led to more classrooms. These rooms were used for commercial, science and history classes. The library was also on this floor. Sometime later the library was moved to the first floor and then to its final setting at the far end of the study hall.

In 1926 the new high school was accredited by the University of Illinois and was recognized by the State Department of Public Instruction as a Standard Four Year High School in 1928.

In order to meet the standards set by the Illinois State Board of Education, the high school was renovated and the gymnasium converted to classrooms. Construction of a new gymnasium addition on the south side of the building began in 1949.

In 1950 the Livingston Homecoming Committee voted to advance the school district funds to purchase bleachers for the new gym. Five hundred seats were installed when the floor was finished and one hundred additional chairs were also purchased.

Marion A. Verton, principal, presided over a brief ceremony prior to the beginning of the first basketball game played in the new gym.

During the late 1980s and 1990s many school districts in the State of Illinois were plagued with financial problems. Livingston was no exception, and in 2004 the community made the decision to dissolve the district and annex to Staunton School District.



Gymnasium entrance to the Second High School Building. Entrance faces Livingston Avenue.

Looking Back – Childhood Memories

by Robert Augustine

I was fortunate to have been born and raised across the street from the Livingston High School. I was always awed by the hustle and bustle of the students coming and going to school. As a toddler I also watched them play and practice football on the athletic field. Football was discontinued in the mid 1930s, but there were still a lot of activities on the field. They hosted a lot of track meets featuring pole vaulting, shot-putting, javelin throwing, short jumping, relay racing, hurdle jumping, etc. Ray Komanecy (now deceased) represented Livingston and was always a top contender. Andy Warlock was the janitor and took pride in the school. He had three huge flower beds in front of the school filled with red cannas surrounded by Mexican fire-bushes which were green but turned fire-red in the fall. He also kept the lawn cut and green like a golf course. He was a strict disciplinarian and during the summer kept the lawn alive with water sprinklers. As young kids he would let us don our swimming suits and play under the sprinklers and slide in the wet, green grass. As we grew older, we would play cork ball on the east side of the school using the school as our back stop. We also used the huge athletic field to fly our kites. My wife, three kids and I graduated from the school. Today it sits lonely and forlorn – awaiting its fate; it's called progress.

Today you don't see kids outside too much. Television seems to be the wave of the future and no one does much outside unless it's got a motor on it. We've got to take care of our environment before it takes care of us.

Livingston High School Teachers

S – Superintendent

P – Principal

AP – Assistant Principal

Tipmer Rachow 1920 – 1926 S
 Helen Sweeney 1920 – 1921
 Florence Gedney 1920 – 1921
 Dorrel Kilduff 1920 – 1921
 Eleanor Clancey 1921 – 1923
 Marie Foltz 1921 – 1922
 Lawrence Crawford 1922 – 1925 P
 Edith Wilson 1923 – 1927
 Caroline Considine 1924 – 1925
 Evelyn Waters 1925 – 1928
 Vivian Plyley 1925 – 1927
 A.W. Huber 1926 – 1927 P
 Carl Fisher 1926 – 1927
 Frances Holben 1926 – 1930
 L.J. Hortin 1927 – 1928 P
 Howard Crawford 1927 – 1941
 Marquis Wattenhauer 1927 – 1929
 Edmund Wahl 1928 – 1932 P
 Margaret Cahill 1928 – 1929
 Ethel Williams 1929 – 1930
 Gretta McCutchin 1929 – 1930
 Alice Hickey 1929 – 1930
 Charles Hall 1930 – 1934
 Charles Ford 1930 – 1947
 Muriel Carmody 1931 – 1934
 H.E. Cantrell 1932 – 1933 P
 Vernon Mays 1933 – 1938 P
 Lillian Tolbert 1933 – 1937
 Violet Sauer 1934 – 1937
 Lillie Zimmerlin 1934 – 1937
 Esther Palmer 1935 – 1937
 Mary Frances Moore 1936 – 1937
 Norman Strader 1936 – 1938
 Charlotte Faris 1937 – 1938
 Frances Packer 1937 – 1941
 Mary Hoyt Stoddard 1937 – 1938
 Fred Chapman 1938 – 1943 P
 Selma Helmkamp 1939 – 1942
 Clyde Arnold 1941 – 1942
 Ruby Walker 1941 – 1942
 George McMillan 1941 – 1942
 Viola Kobler 1942 – 1943
 Faye Sherfy 1942 – 1946
 Kathern Hoehn 1942 – 1943

Anton Perne 1943 – 1959 P
 Louis Hambley 1943 – 1944
 Mary Graden 1943 – 1944
 Clara Pearson 1944 – 1947
 Gloria Jones 1944 – 1945
 Evelyn Knezik 1945 – 1946
 Virginia Wittcoff 1945 – 1946
 Marion Verton 1946 – 1958
 1959 – 1984 P
 Eileen Harry Scheibal 1946 – 1948
 Eloise Binney 1947 – 1955
 Frank Jerse 1947 – 1948
 Helen Kipping 1948 – 1955
 Elnora Smith 1948 – 1949
 Mary Stiritz 1948 – 1950
 Fred Reed 1949 – 1951
 George Spudich 1950 – 1953

*The high school became part of Livingston
 Community Consolidated School District #4 in
 1952.*

Ira Bowles 1953 – 1954
 Kathryn Hribernik 1953 – 1958
 Louis Philippi 1953 – 1959
 1967 – 1968
 Irvil Rogers 1953 – 1954
 Sidna Mullineaux 1954 – 1955
 John Ferns 1955 – 1956
 Anita James 1955 – 1956
 Earl McClanahan 1955 – 1960 AP
 Alice Warburton 1955 – 1957
 Edith Wray 1956 – 1957
 H.C. Stanley 1956 – 1958
 Barbara Molitoris 1957 – 1962
 Dulcena Walker 1957 – 1958
 Helen Allen 1958 – 1959
 Bertha Kizer 1958 – 1962
 John Lusiana 1958 – 1959
 Howard Williamson 1959 – 1960
 Charles Woods 1959 – 1970
 Margaret Woods 1959 – 1967
 Marjorie Ballinger 1960 – 1961
 Joseph Kersting 1960 – 1963

Doris Carney.....1961 – 1966
George Fairbanks.....1961 – 1965
Betty Jean Cockrel.....1962 – 1965
Sharon Kahle1962 – 1963
Elizabeth Rainford.....1962 – 1963
Robert Theus.....1963 – 1965
Betty Bates.....1963 – 1984
1984 – 1987 P
Glen Sappington1963 – 1977
Wayne Brooke1965 – 1967
1990 – 1992 P

From 1967 to 1990 Wayne Brooke was the principal of A.R. Graiff Grade School.

Ron Hampton.....1965 – 1968
1979 – 1993
Doris Kanallakan1965 – 1966
Barbara Madden1965 – 1966
Fred Marquis.....1966 – 1967
Dana Schell.....1966 – 1967
Rosemary Hoffman.....1967 – 1968
Kenneth McCormack.....1967 – 1989
Dorothy O’Neal1967 – 1969
Barbara (Tuetken) Orr1967 – 1969
Cornelius McGrady1968 – 1969
Ray West.....1968 – 1972
Ray Wheeler1968 – 1970
James Augustine1969 – 1993
Joseph Ferreira.....1969 – 1987
James Kuenneth.....1969 – 1971
Macklin Meyer1969 – 1970
Shirley Yancik1969 – 1983
Catherine Epplin1971 – 1973
1975 – 1979
Terry Krause1971 – 1972
Steven Stanko1971 – 2001
Martha McCormack.....1972 – 1977
Dave Lamore1973 – 1977
Philip Keasler1976 – 1978
Sherry Early Blastenbrei.....1976 – 1977
1987 – 1992
Edward Sievers.....1977 – 1979
Michael Baumer1978 – 1987
Carolyn Beck1979 – 1984
Doris Lacy1979 – 1992
Gail Scheller1980 – 1988
Kathy Streubel1984 – 1985
Kathy Moody1986 – 1987
Walter Bishop.....1987 – 1989 S

Ellen Richard.....1987 – 1988
Alice Stumpf Adden1987 – 1993
William Fever.....1989 – 2002 S
Dawn Dominic.....1989 – 1991
1993 – 1994
Mary Jane Helsel1989 – 2000
Donna Kille1989 – 1990
Terri Paris1989 – 1990
Faith Whitmer.....1989 – 1990
Kay James.....1990 – 1992
Faith Kennedy1990 – 1992
Noel Ogden.....1990 – 1991
Lisa Shelton1991 – 1993
2002 – 2004
Wayne Brooke1990 – 1992 P
Dale Davis1992 – 1993
Debbie Epperson1992 – 1993
Kelly Kemper1992 – 1995
Dave Biele1993 – 1995
Bruce Frank1993 – 1995
Kay Gilomen1993 – 1995
Davie McGraw1993 – 1995
Douglas Zehr1995 – 2004 P
Scott Chelist.....1995 – 1996
Jack Haug1995 – 1997
Cathy O’Connell.....1995 – 1996
Paul Rister1995 – 1996
Julie Rolando1995 – 1996
Karen Sanborn1995 – 1998
Joanna Stumpf1995 – 1996
Tim Watson1995 – 1998
Edward Fletcher.....1996 – 1997
Donald Bechtold.....1996 – 1998
Tina Kassa1996 – 1998
Terry Lavan1996 – 1997
Kimberly Lobb1996 – 2000
Marsha Ribes1996 – 2001
Lynne Harris.....1997 – 1998
Dorothee Reynolds.....1997 - 1998
Debra Stierwalt.....1997 – 1998
Bradley Fulk1998 – 2004
Theodore Garner.....1998 – 1999
Debra Heal.....1998 – 1999
Sandra Kopsky.....1998 – 2000
Dennis Nail.....1998 – 1999
Patricia Simon1998 – 2000
Marcia Bedard1999 – 2000
Lavada Jean DeNap.....1999 – 2000
Bret Hentze.....1999 – 2003
Melinda Weilmuenster1999 – 2000

Rhonda Yotter.....	1999 – 2000
Rob Clark.....	2000 – 2001
Brad Garland.....	2000 – 2002
Mary Jane Hetzel.....	2000 – 2001
Arif Husain.....	2000 – 2002
Jeffrey Turnbull.....	2000 – 2001
Ryan Davis.....	2001 – 2002
Theresa Dumarent.....	2001 – 2002
Patrick Henderson.....	2001 – 2003
Elizabeth Leutmeyer.....	2001 – 2002
Matt Mendenhall.....	2001 – 2003
Lieda Shadwick.....	2001 – 2002
Tracy Spillman.....	2001 – 2002

Matt Biver.....	2002 – 2003
Jennifer Harshany.....	2002 – 2004
John Kruse.....	2002 – 2003
Kevin Kruse.....	2002 – 2004
Jessica Moff.....	2002 – 2004
Tim Rhymmer.....	2002 – 2003
Lisa Shelton.....	2002 – 2004
Gary Tedford.....	2002 – 2003
Dr. Robert Falast.....	2002 – 2004 S
Patrick Carter.....	2003 – 2004
Margaret Dinsenmeyer.....	2003 – 2004
Dawn Skorzeski.....	2003 – 2004
Daniel Foehrkolb.....	2003 – 2004

Boards of Education Elementary District #141

Thomas McCullister	1914 – 1923
E.A. Hill	1914 – 1915
L. Finer	1914 – 1920
Joseph C. Spencer	1914 – 1915
D.E. Aylward	1914 – 1920
Ellis Vallow	1914 – 1920
Herman Becker	1916 – 1920
J.F. Ramsey	1916 – 1920
J.M. Arkabauer	1918 – 1920
Warren Hardy	1920 – 1920

In 1920 with the addition of the high school there became two separate boards – one for elementary school and one for high school.

Elementary Board – District #141 1920 – 1951

D.E. Aylward	1920 –
J.M. Arkabauer	1920 – 1927
Herman Becker	1920 – 1930
L. Finer	1920 – 1923
J.F. Ramsey	1920 – 1924
Thomas McCullister	1920 – 1929
Warren Hardy	1920 – 1923
A.R. Scanzoni	1923 – 1931
J.S. Alfeld	1923 – 1929
Bert Dunlap	1923 – 1931
Dr. J.C. Tietze	1927 – 1928
Henry Larson	1928 – 1930
Louis Mitchelar	1928 – 1934

Joe Zorzi	1929 – 1935
Andrew Hofner	1930 – 1931
Louis Gori	1930 – 1939
John Zorzi	1931 – 1950
D.E. Aylward	1931 – 1932
Henry Jolly	1931 – 1941
Paul Philippi	1931 – 1943
Steve Komanecky	1932 – 1935
John Gorenz	1934 – 1948
Andy Grega	1935 –
Rudolph Paulicka	1935 – 1951
Clarence Meyer	1939 – 1948
Anton Karnosky	1941 – 1954
Robert Edmiston	1943 – 1946
Steve Ruzevich	1946 – 1951
Louis Moggio	1948 – 1951
Orville Highlander	1948 – 1951

High School Board – District #146 1920 – 1952

Edwin H. Ahlers	1920 –
D.E. Aylward	1920 – 1930
Walter Binney	1920
John Westwood, Sr.	1920
T.N. Voyles	1920 – 1932
Dr. R.C. Berry	1921 – 1932
J.W. Busker	1924 – 1937
Robert Edmiston	1930 – 1931
George Kreuter	1931 – 1936
John Van Hooser	1932 – 1941

J.S. Alfeld	1932 – 1935
Edwin Ahlers	1933 – 1934
Walter Kroger	1934 – 1937
Harris May	1935 – 1941
Ellis Vallow	1936 – 1940
Clarence Meyer	1936 – 1940
Louis Schuette	1937 – 1940
Clifford France	1940 – 1952
Wayne Hutchins	1940 – 1943
A.W. Coalson	1940 – 1949
George Kreuter	1941 – 1946
William Falkenburg	1941 – 1946
Robert Edmiston	1943 – 1947
John Augustine	1946 – 1949
Andrew Grega	1946 – 1947
Walter Bernardin	1949 – 1952
Joe Dumont	1949 – 1951
George Best	1949 – 1951
Orville Highlander	1949 – 1951
Joseph Healey, Jr.	1951 – 1952
Robert Edmiston	1951 – 1952
Oscar Windisch	1951 – 1952

*Livingston Consolidated School District #4
In 1952 the district became a consolidated
district with one Board of Education for
elementary and high school.*

Andrew Grega	1952 – 1955
George Robertson	1952 – 1954
George Augustine	1952 – 1953
Andy Semanek, Jr.	1952 – 1958
Anton Karnosky	1952 – 1954
Clifford France	1952 – 1955
George Best	1952 – 1967
Oscar Windisch	1953 – 1965
Stanley Karnosky	1954 – 1960

Americo Libbra	1954 – 1975
Marion Tsupros	1955 – 1964
Dave Dzurus	1955 – 1958
Andrew Grega	1958 – 1964
John Lenger	1958 – 1968
Dave Dzurus	1960 – 1966
Louis Schuette	1962 – 1964
Robert Chulka	1964 – 1980
Henry Malench	1964 – 1980
Frank Smiley	1965 – 1986
William Siever	1966 – 1986
John Chalovich	1966 – 1967
Raymond Jackson	1967 – 1970
Ronald Lesicko	1969 – 1986
George Robertson, Jr.	1969 – 1990
Robert Bowles	1970 – 1976
Arthur Schuette	1975 – 1990
Robert Ruzevich	1976 – 1984
Violet Chulka	1980 – 1982
John Wilson	1982 – 1988
Robert Bowles	1980 –
Goble Keith Pogue	1984 – 1988
Lawrence Benardin	1986 – 1995
Judy Hampton	1986 – 1994
Joyce Oltmann	1986 – 2004
Kenneth Schoen	1988 – 1990
Shirley DalPazzo	1988 – 2003
Kevin McCalla	1990 – 1996
Susan Engelke	1990 – 2004
Robert Urban	1992 – 1999
Tom Smith	1995 – 2004
Larry Benardin	1996 – 2003
Karen Mitchelar	1998 – 2004
Dana Miller	1999 – 2003
Tom Burcham	2003 – 2004
Tim Newton	2003 – 2004
Rob Peterson	2003 – 2004

Livingston Parent – Teacher Association / Parent – Teacher Organization

The first organization and meeting was held at the Grade School on February 9, 1953.

The officers were:	Mrs. Walter Benardin	President
	Mrs. Kenneth Heim	Vice-President
	Mrs. Mike Spudich	Secretary
	Mrs. Stanley Karnosky	Treasurer

Meetings were held on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. There were 105 people present

and signed up as members at the first meeting. Their goals were to provide extra-curricular activities for the students. Occasionally a program was presented by the children or by an organization or a professional.

In the late 1950s the P.T.A. became known as the P.T.O. disbanding the group from a state organization to a local group which allowed for more freedom from regulations.

Some of the sponsored activities were:

Halloween movie and treats followed by a parade to the pavilion

Grade mothers providing entertainment and holiday treats

Cub Scouts

Spring Carnival and crowning of King and Queen

Bake sales and band fund raisers

Father and son basketball games

Summer swimming program which provided transportation to the pool and training by Red Cross certified instructors. Locations of instruction were Highland, Lake of the Seven Fingers, Edwardsville YMCA and Bethalto Community Swimming Pool

Sponsored and chaperoned field trips

At one time there were separate PTAs for the elementary school and for the high school.

Rules for Teachers

(from the early 1900s)

- You will not marry during the term of your contract.
- You are not to keep company with men.
- You must be home between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. unless attending a school function.
- You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
- You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
- You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
- You may not smoke cigarettes.
- You may not dress in bright colors.
- You may not under any circumstances dye your hair.
- You must wear at least two petticoats.
- Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
- To keep the school room neat and clean, you must: sweep the floors at least once daily; scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water; clean the blackboards at least once a day and start the fire at 7:00 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8:00 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic School

Construction on the Sacred Heart Catholic School building began in June, 1924. Parishioners hoped that the new building would be completed by the opening of the school year in September. The builder was Al Bethel and Son of Staunton. Father Francis Gribbons was the parish priest at that time. The school was a large structure measuring 72 x 69 feet and had four rooms which housed eight grades. Cost for the new building including the furnishings was \$23,000.00. Four Ursuline Sisters commuted daily from St. Michael's Convent to teach the classes.

The new school was dedicated on Sunday, October 12, 1924. Approximately 350 people attended the outdoor ceremony and a banquet followed.

After years of falling enrollment the school was forced to close its doors. The parish, however, continues to use the building for all types of events held on the church grounds. Religious instruction, weddings, bridal and baby showers, anniversaries and birthdays, as well as an ordination celebration have all been held at the church hall.

The building continues to be used by the parish for meetings as well as social gatherings by members of the parish and community.

