SOUTH-WESTERN CITY SCHOOLS
CELEBRATING
30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
1956-1986

A SOLID FOUNDATION...

Only one high school was in existence in the area now called South-Western City School District in 1954, and six boards of education governed individual school districts to serve the area.

Population was growing rapidly then, and schools were severely stressed to meet the needs.

Only the Franklin Local District had a financial base adequate to support the growing demands. That situation came about because of the location of large industrial operations within that school district in the years just prior to 1956.

A coalition of citizens representing the six districts was formed, and meetings were held with members of the various boards of education, and with county and state officials.

On January 1, 1956, the South-Western Local School District was formed. It was a consolidation of five local and one exempted village school system. These were: the Grove City-Jackson Exempted Village District, the Franklin Township Local District, the Prairie Township Local District, the Pleasant Township Local District, the Urbanacrest Village District, and the Georgetown Local District.

As the area became more heavily populated, Grove City changed from a village to become a chartered city in 1958. The Board of Education of South-Western Local Schools took action on August 19, 1959, as outlined in law, to change the status of the school system and the South-Western City School System was established.

Many visible changes have taken place in the school district in the past 30 years. Schools were built and others were repaired and expanded to meet the demands of a fast-growing enrollment in the '60s and early '70s. That enrollment peaked in 1975 with 17,804 students.

A steady decline in the number of pupils in the last 11 years has reduced the enrollment to 16,000 students, and two schools have been closed. Even though the number of pupils has decreased, the district has climbed to 7th place in enrollment among Ohio's 615 school districts.

Since the early days of the district, South-Western City Schools has established a tradition of excellence in education. Long known as a leader in innovative education, its students and staff have earned numerous state and national awards.

A machine teaches student learns a skill in the district's vocational program.
Dr. Martin Stake, superintendent of schools, and Dr. Roland Heng, board president, break ground for Grove City High School on Hoover Road.

Pleasant View High School students and teacher discuss the solar system.

fall (fol) v. 1. The time schools open. 2. Time of year families move inside.

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Alton Hall Elementary School students and teacher wrote letters to President Kennedy.

Franklin Heights High School's In The Know Team competes with Linden McKinley.

A Grove City High School student paints a mural of the world on a wall in the building on Park Street.

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(Do you recognize people in the photos in this section? Please call South Western City Schools at 873-218 and ask for Special Services. They would appreciate your help.)
THE TRADITION CONTINUES...

Many changes have taken place in the school district in the past 20 years. Schools were built and others were repaired and expanded to meet the demands of a fast-growing enrollment in the '60s and early '70s. That enrollment peaked in 1975 with 17,384 students.

A steady decline in the number of pupils in the last 11 years has reduced the enrollment to 16,000. Even though the number of pupils has decreased, the district has climbed to 76th place in enrollment among Ohio's 615 school districts.

Since the early days, South-Western City Schools has established a tradition of excellence. Long known as a leader in innovative education, its students and staff have earned numerous state and national awards. Today's students are continuing that time-honored tradition.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of South-Western City Schools, we will let the student, staff and community successes of the past five years speak for themselves.

Franklin Heights High School Scholar
Ann Hadfield

Grace City High School Scholar
Steve Hrapontucki

Westland High School Scholar
David Penry

Westland High School Scholar
Kevin Monroe

South-Western's National Merit Scholarship Competition for 1986 produced four finalists in the national Merit Scholarship Corporation Competition for National Merit Scholarship Corporation. These students have scored in the top 1% of all students nationwide who took the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship.

South-Western's Chapter 1 program was named one of America's "Unusually Successful Chapter 1 Programs" in 1985 by the United States Department of Education. The program, designed to give children a stronger start in reading, operates in 14 of the district's 15 elementary schools.

South-Western is one of only four Ohio Chapter 1 programs to receive the honor. Nationwide, 116 Chapter 1 programs were tipped for recognition.

Michelle Lock, Pleasant View Middle School student, won first place in the 1986 State Science Fair; environmental science division. She scored a perfect 40 out of 40 points in the competition held at Ohio Wesleyan University.
Vocational education students won five state and two national contests in the last five years.

Westland High School graduate Mary Jo Besseel finished first in the nation in the 1985 Typing II and Related Contest sponsored by the Office Education Association National Leadership Conference.

Noelle Western’s Pre-Vocational Learning Center won the 1983 Initiative in Special Education Award given by the Ohio Department of Education. The award, which was presented by Ohio’s Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Franklin D. Welfare, was one of 16 Excellence in Education awards earned by Ohio school districts in the 1983-84 school year. The three-year program, taught by Ralph Albino at Franklin Heights High School, provides experiences for developmentally handicapped students to help them cope with community employment demands.

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But “luck” is not the road to success these days.
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Peter Homes
Art students earned five Governor’s Awards of Excellence in the last five years. Only 25 such awards are presented each year to Ohio high school art students.

Dudie Ricker, Westland High School student, won three Governor’s Awards of Excellence in art.

Four students have earned highest honors in the last two years in the Eastman Kodak Company Scholastic Photography Contest. Grove City High School student Donna Skaggs was the first South-Western student to earn the honor.

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Employees

Being an educator is a way of life for Westland Industrial arts teacher Leonie Briggs. For the past 11 years, she has brought fresh ideas to the South-Western City School District and to the Ohio Department of Education. Now she has been recognized as the Ohio Industrial Arts Teacher of the Year in Ohio for 1986. The award was given to Briggs by the Ohio Industrial Technology Education Association.

Briggs said she stresses the importance of understanding construction concepts used in industry and the problems that face contractors and manufacturers everyday in the workplace. Only then, she believes, can the students be prepared for employment when they enter the job market or own homes of their own.

Ron Wheeler was named Teacher of the Year for 1986 by members of the Ohio Council of Social Studies Teachers. The veteran educator, who has taught his entire career at Franklin Heights High School, said he “felt honored to be recognized by his peers.” Wheeler also said he believes his students should be guided as he felt when he received the Award. Wheeler teaches Advanced Placement European History and U.S. Government classes. In addition to teaching, he serves as Athletic Director at Franklin Heights.

Barbara Trent-Langdon, Franklin Heights High School business education department head, was named 1986 Ohio Business Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Business Teachers Association.

Trent-Langdon earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Ohio State University. She started as an intensive office education instructor at Pleasant View High School and at Grove City High School and as an instructor at Columbus Technical Institute before accepting a position at Franklin Heights High School. Trent-Langdon is an active member of the National Business Education Association, North Central Business Education Association, American Vocational Association, Ohio Vocational Association and Ohio Education Association.

Jerry Spears
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We can appreciate the feeling and excitement South-Western will experience this anniversary year, for a job well done.

AFTER ALL, WE HAVE PASSED MANY OF THOSE MILESTONES OURSELVES.

The Jerry Spears Co. and Associates want to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for the true and valuable friendships that have been made over the years. There is nothing greater than the love that family life can bring. Just as the father protects and comforts his children, the people at Spears feel the same compassion and responsibility to the families just like our own, that are served daily. Reassurance, Security, Understanding, and Counseling to the families of this great community is Spears’ isolated thought. From the Jerry Spears Funeral Home to the entire community, this relationship you will always be cherished.

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SCHOOLS ON ITS
30TH ANNIVERSARY.
WE ARE PROUD TO BE
A PART OF THOSE
30 YEARS.

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July 28, 1986

South-Western City School District
2975 Kingston Avenue
Grove City, OH 43123

DEAR STUDENTS, STAFF MEMBERS, AND ALUMNI:

As Governor of the great State of Ohio, I am pleased to have the opportunity to commend you on the 30th anniversary of South-Western City Schools.

As one of the largest school districts in Ohio, many young people have been provided with an educational experience that prepared them to meet the challenges of yesterday, today and the future. We congratulate you on these numerous successes. Some recent student achievements have included the above average scores on the national standardized basic skills achievement test and awards received in areas of writing, art, special education, music, athletics, photography, typing and reading.

In addition, three teachers were named "Ohio Teacher of the Year," two students of the 1986 graduating class appointed to U.S. military academies, six schools earned the 1986 Golden Achievement Award and graduating seniors have been offered $3.4 million in scholarships and grants.

We recognize that the accomplishments of the South-Western City Schools are the result of many dedicated individuals working together. Congratulations are extended to each of you.

Be assured of my best wishes as you celebrate this 30th anniversary. We challenge you to continue the pursuit of excellence in education.

With best regards,

Richard F. Celeste
Governor

RFC/la
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 29, 1985

I am pleased to send greetings to everyone marking the 30th anniversary of the South-Western City School District.

The record of this district speaks for itself. Individual students, groups of students, and the schools themselves have been models of achievement. Such excellence can come about only through a cooperative effort, with the administration, the teachers, the students, and not least the families all doing their part. My congratulations go to all of you.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

CHALMERS P. WYLIE
Representative to Congress

Eastern City School District
1200 Washington Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43223

May I extend warmest congratulations to you celebrating your 30th anniversary.

Over the years, your accomplishments have been much admired and prized. It is heartwarming to have the honor of representing such an outstanding school district. You should be proud in the important part you have played in forming the lives of so many young people.

I am sure that the future will hold many things for the South-Western City School District. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

[Signature]
CONGRATULATIONS!

Columbus Technical Institute congratulates the South-Western City Schools for providing 30 years of quality educational programs and services to the residents of the district.

We’re especially proud of our ongoing association with the South-Western City Schools and the hundreds of graduates who have continued their education at CTI.

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1956-1986

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30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
High school music groups earned 59 superior (I) ratings in the last five years.
High school athletes won three state individual championships, a team state championship, a team runner-up state championship and several district and regional honors in the last five years.

Lori Ratan, Grove City High School student is the 1986 Ohio bowling co-champion.

Grove City High School Student Anu Govitman won the 1985 Ohio AAA singles tennis champion.

Coach Marianne Birt's Westland High School Volleyball Team has won 363 games while losing only 29 since 1983. They have been regional runners-up twice, district champions twice, district runners-up twice, O.C.C. champions three times and O.C.C. runners-up once in the last five years.

The Franklin Heights Football Team, coached by Jeff Gafford, has emerged as the team of the 1980's in the prestigious Ohio Capital Conference. Since joining the league in 1981, the Golden Falcons have been champions or runners-up three times.
Community Relations

Six schools in the South-Western City School District earned seven National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) 1985 Golden Achievement Awards for exemplary public relations activities. Dr. John Werry, NSPRA executive director, sent letters of commendation and certificates to each school principal.

Four elementary schools and two high schools earned the national honor. Certificates were presented to Hayes Technical School, Doug Wooler, principal; Darbydale Elementary School, Frank Staley, principal; Prairieton Lincoln Elementary School, Zena Vincent, principal; Monterey Elementary School, Connie Johnston, principal; Prairie Norton Elementary School, Donna Fisher, principal; and Grove City High School (2), Tom Rutlan, principal.

Seven years of hard work, including three hours of practice a day during the school year and seven hours of practice a day during the summer, paid off for diver Andy Peabody.

Peabody, a 1985 graduate of Westland High School, was the 1985 state diving champion. After placing second in district competition, Peabody went on to defeat the district champion for the 1st place finish at the state contest. He captured a national title a couple of years ago.

Dawn Walloa, Westland High School track star, placed 2nd in the state two-mile and 3rd in the state one-mile races in 1980.

The 1985 Ohio PTA Unit of the Year is Grove City High School's Parent Teacher Student Association (PTA). Pictured above are seated: Heather MacKinlay and (far) Norm Lambert, Assistant principal; (left) Marti Eberhardt, membership chairman; (right) Judy Feast, president, and (far) Principal Tom Rutlan.

Monterey Elementary School's playground construction project earned the 1985 NSPRA Golden Achievement Award for outstanding school public relations. Pictured left to right are Kevin Langen, physical education teacher; Joan Nied, PTA president; Sue O'Hara, playground designer; Conni Johnston, principal; and Jim Nelson, staff development teacher.
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A BRIGHT FUTURE...

Built on a solid foundation and steeped in a tradition of excellence, the South-Western City School District looks forward to a bright future.

Community support for the schools has never been higher. Voters approved a $14.5 million bond issue in 1984 that pumped renewed vitality into an already strong system. Funds from that issue have been used to rid the schools of asbestos-containing material, buy educational equipment and construct and repair buildings.

But many challenges await the schools. A strong curriculum must be refined to meet the needs of graduates in the next century. A critical, predicted teacher shortage will require vigorous recruitment to preserve a strong staff. And a strong financial base must be maintained to assure tomorrow's students of an excellent education.

The road to success has never been easy, and the school system has met and overcome difficult obstacles in the past. With continued community support for and active participation in the schools, the South-Western City Schools look forward to exciting days ahead.
A new library computer complex will be ready for Franklin Heights High School students this year.

A new bus maintenance facility, located on South West Boulevard in Grove City, will be completed this year. The new complex will feature repair and office space and a 10-acre parking area for the district's 190 school buses.

Donald Miller
Director of Special Services,
South Western City Schools
James Hale
Project Coordinator,
Messenger Newspapers
Whip-Poor-Will Studio
Layout and design

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