

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 sorely pressed 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 committee 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.

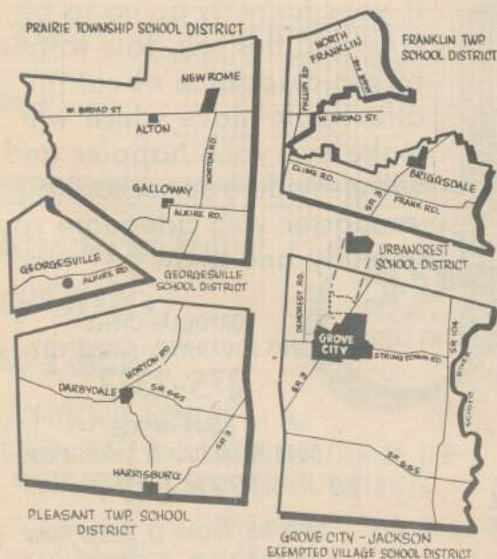
On January 1, 1956, the South-Western Local School District was formed. It was a consolidation of five local and one exempted village school system. These were: the Grove City-Jackson Exempted Village District, the Franklin Township Local District, the Prairie Township Local District, the Pleasant Township Local District, the Urbancrest Village District, and the Georgesville 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 trades student learns a skill in the district's vocational program.



Dr. Martin Stahl, superintendent of schools, and Dr. Roland Long, board president, break ground for Grove City High School on Hoover Road.



Darbydale Elementary School students learn that reading is fun.



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



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



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



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

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(Do you recognize people in the photos in this section? Please call South-Western City Schools at 875-2318 and ask for Special Services. They would appreciate your help.)



THE TRADITION CONTINUES...

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. 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, 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 30th anniversary of South-Western City Schools, we will let the student, staff and community successes of the past five years speak for themselves.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation chose 11 South-Western seniors as National Merit Finalists in the last five years.



Franklin Heights High School Scholar
Ann Hutfless



Grove City High School Scholar
Steve Hapstonstahl



Westland High School Scholar
David Penry



Westland High School Scholar
Kevin Morris

South-Western City Schools produced four finalists in the national Merit Scholarship Corporation Competition for 1986. The previous highest total for any given year in the district was three senior students. Nine other students received high honors from the organization as well.

To become a finalist in the competition, this year's seniors scored in the top one-half of one percent of all students nationwide who took the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship.



South-Western's Chapter I program was named one of America's "Unusually Successful Chapter I Programs" in 1985 by the United States Department of Education. The program, designed to give children a stronger start in reading, operates in 11 of the district's 15 elementary schools.

The program was one of only four Ohio Chapter I programs to receive the honor. Nationwide, 118 Chapter I programs were tapped for recognition.

Michelle Locke, 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.



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

Vocational education students won five state and two national contests in the last five years.

Tina Allen, Grove City High School graduate, took 4th place in the nation in the 1985 Extemporaneous Verbal Communication II category. The contest was sponsored by the Office Education Association National Leadership Conference in Houston, Texas.



South-Western's Pre-Vocational Learning Center won the 1983 Initiatives 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 B. Walter, 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 Albertson at Franklin Heights High School, provides experiences for developmentally handicapped students to help them cope with community employment demands.

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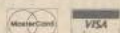
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Art students earned five Governor's Awards of Excellence in the last five years. Only 25 such awards are presented each year to Ohio high school art students.



Thad Ricker, Westland High School student, has three Governor's Awards of Excellence in art.



Susie Zorich, Grove City High School student, won the World of Poetry's Golden Poet Award for 1986. Susie received her award in Orlando, Florida on August 31.



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

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Employees

Being an innovator is a way of life for Westland Industrial arts teacher Lonnie Briggs. For the past 11 years, he has brought fresh ideas to the South-Western City School District and to the Ohio Department of Education. Now he has been recognized as the Ohio Industrial Arts Teacher of the Year in Ohio for 1985-86. The award was given to Briggs by the Ohio Industrial Technology education association.

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



Barbara Trent-Langdon, Franklin Heights High School business education department head, was named 1983 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 worked 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.

Ron Wheeler was named Teacher of the Year for 1983-84 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 shared in the pride 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.



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

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—Directors—
Jerry Spears Jr.,
Jerry Spears III,
Robert D. Spears,
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David Davis,
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July 28, 1986

South-Western City School District
2975 Kingston Avenue
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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
Richard F. Celeste
Governor

RFC/la



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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 29, 1986

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.

Ronald Reagan

CHALMERS P. WYLIE
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June 25, 1986

South-Western City School District
10000 Madison Avenue
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Friends:

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

Over the years, your accomplishments have won much admiration and pride. 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 great things for the South-Western City School District. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Chalmers P. Wylie
CHALMERS P. WYLIE
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W:a

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The Westland High School Symphonic choir, directed by Jennifer Franz, is known throughout the area for their superior music performances.



The Grove City High School Marching Band, directed by James Steearingen, performs at halftime of an OSU football game.



The award-winning Franklin Heights High School Girls Ensemble, directed by Jim Myers, has a tradition of excellence.

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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.



Photo by Hull of Frame

Lori Rutan, Grove City High School student, is the 1986 Ohio vaulting co-champion.

Grove City High School Student Ann Grossman was the 1985 Ohio AAA singles tennis champion.



Photo by Hull of Frame



Photo by Hull of Frame

Coach Marianne Birt's Westland High School Volleyball Team has won 103 games while losing only 28 since 1981. They have been regional runners-up once, district champions twice, district runners-up twice, O.C.C. champs 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.



Photo by Hall of Fame

Coch Ron Hutchinson's Grove City High School Softball Team won the state AA championship in 1983. They were state runners-up in 1984, district and regional champions in 1983 and 1984, district runners-up in 1983 and O.C.C. champions in '82, '83 and '84.

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 Beachler.

Beachler, a 1985 graduate of Westland High School, was the 1985 state diving champion. After placing second in district competition, Beachler 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 Wallace, Westland High School track star, placed 2nd in the state two-mile and 3rd in the state one-mile races in 1986.

Community Relations

Six schools in the South-Western City School District earned seven National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) 1986 Golden Achievement Awards for exemplary public relations activities. Dr. John Wherry, 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, Don Wobrie, principal; Darbydale Elementary School, Frank Shipley, principal; Prairie Lincoln Elementary School, Zana Vincent, principal; Monterey Elementary School, Connie Johnston, principal; Prairie Norton Elementary School, Donna Fisher, principal, and Grove City High School (2), Tom Rutan, principal.



The 1986 Ohio PTA Unit of The Year is Grove City High School's Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA). Pictured above are: (seated) Heather Makuley and (1 to r) Norm Lambert, Assistant principal, Marti Eberhard, membership chairman, Judy Feil, president, and Principal Tom Rutan.



Monterey Elementary School's playground construction project earned the 1986 NSPRA Golden Achievement Award for outstanding school public relations. Pictured left to right are Kevin Langen, physical education teacher, Jean Smedley, PTA president, Sue O'Hara, playground health and safety chairperson, Jim O'Hara, playground designer, Connie Johnston, principal, and Jim Nelson, staff development teacher.



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Garry Vogelpohl

Garry Vogelpohl and Mary Bode are two volunteers in the national award-winning Grandparent Program at Prairie Norton Elementary School. Vogelpohl has been a volunteer for seven years. Bode is a 12-year veteran volunteer.



Mary Bode

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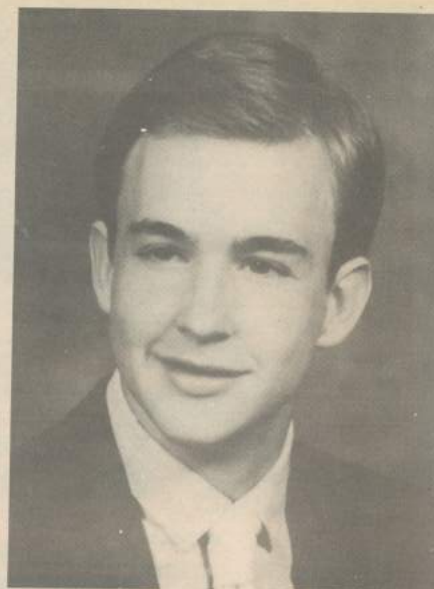
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Graduating seniors have received \$3.4 million in scholarship and grant offers in the last five years.



Tim Kane



Steve Haptonstahl

Hall of Fame Photos

Tim Kane and Steve Haptonstahl received appointments to service academies. Kane, a 1986 Westland High School graduate, is headed for the U.S. Air Force Academy. The U.S. Naval Academy is the new home for the 1986 Grove City High School graduate Steve Haptonstahl.

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A. They turn to everyone's favorite . . .

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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.

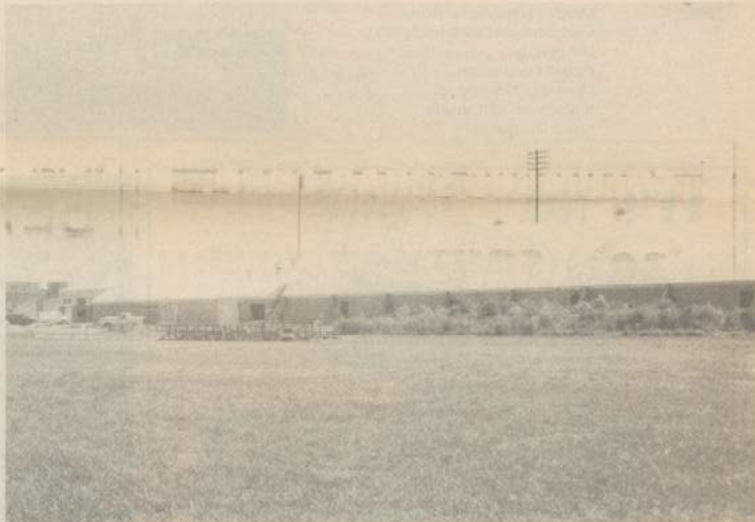
But many challenges await the schools. A strong curriculum must be refined to meet the needs of graduates in the next century. A critical, predicted teacher shortage will require vigorous recruitment to preserve a strong staff. And a strong financial base must be maintained to assure tomorrow's students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

The Class of 2000 will enter the schools next year.

Three community recreation-athletic buildings will be open to the public this fall at the district's high schools.

To meet the demands of a technological age, computer mezzanines were built in the libraries at Westland High School and Grove City High School last year.



A new library-computer complex will be ready for Franklin Heights High School students this year.



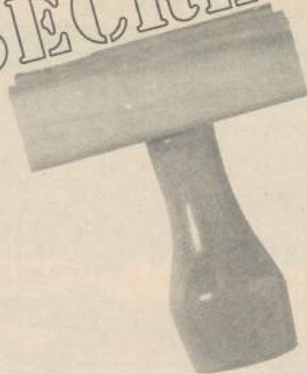
A new bus maintenance facility, located on Southwest Boulevard in Grove City, will be completed this year.

The new complex will feature repair and office spaces and a 10-acre parking area for the district's 100 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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