

NHS Celebrating

Written by *Jim Crawford*

1956...

50 years



In the early 1950's the Evansville and Vanderburgh County population was increasing and pushing in a northern direction. It was decided that a new high school was needed to relieve the burden on the existing public high schools - Central, Bosse and Reitz. The location of the school on property near the Mechanic Arts Trades and Industry High School on the north side was chosen. Mechanic Arts curriculum was incorporated into the new high school which would allow students from the other high schools to come as shared time students.

In the fall of 1956 the new North High School opened its doors with Adrian Meadows serving as its first principal. He would be followed in 1967 by Harold Buck, in 1981 by James Sharp and in 1999 by Brenda Weber. The school opened serving students from the seventh through 12th grades. The first graduating class consisted of only 18 girls and 149 boys because students in the district were allowed to choose to remain at their present high school or to transfer to the new school.

During that first year the school fielded their first athletic teams and were dubbed the North Huskies. A reserve football schedule and a varsity basketball schedule were played. Football games during the early years were played at Bosse Field and other high school fields and in the 1970's, the new Central High School's field was designated as the Huskies' home field. North prided itself on having the best spectator basketball arena in the city.

Many innovations were part of the new school's activities. North pioneered in presenting Broadway musicals in the Evansville schools and eventually was followed by the other schools. Its concert choir became an outstanding program, and the choir's following became so great that several Spring Concerts were held at the Civic Auditorium to accommodate the large audience. Over the years the choir groups have performed for hundreds of local clubs, organizations, and civic events.

In 1967, North lived the ultimate dream of Indiana high school students by winning the then - single class state basketball championship, becoming only the second Evansville high school to do so. Another state championship was savored in 2000 when the North golf team won that title. In 1995 the Huskies football team reached the final game in the state football tournament. The Huskies baseball team has twice played in the final game in the state baseball tournament.

The North Marching Band, now known as the Green Brigade, has had a rich history. Earning dozens of trophies in contests and sponsoring its own invitational contest for many years, the program has flourished. The Green Brigade has played at the Peach Bowl, marched at Disney World on several occasions, played for President Ronald Reagan, and played for the inauguration of the governor of Indiana.

During the life of the school, its Student Council has provided much activity. Elaborate election campaigns for student offices with all school election rallies were often held. It also introduced a holiday girls-ask-boys dance in 1966 called the Santa Switch, which draws huge numbers of students to the present, equaling the traditional spring proms.

North's darkest hours came in 1983 when, because of dwindling enrollments in the city for a short period, a few school board members suggested closing North. Students, faculty and parents rallied attending overflow school board meetings which had to be moved to school auditoriums to allow North supporters to explain the importance of keeping North in operation. The board was convinced, and North went on to win a national award presented to the principal in the White House Rose Garden and State Blue Ribbon honors. In 1994 North was named by Redbook magazine one of the 134 best schools in the nation and the best in Indiana. The school was featured on ABC's "Good Morning, America." North's principal, James Sharp, was named "Principal of the Year" by the Indiana Association of School Principals. The first and second Evansville Courier "Teacher of the Year" awards were presented to North teachers, and two more were awarded in later years.

Over the years, North's faculty has been a very stable group with many teachers serving the school well over 25 years. Many teachers have been recognized in their field of education by state and national organizations. They have devoted thousands of hours of service to students in extra curricular activities such as



wants to congratulate
North High School
on their
50th Anniversary!

www.diamondvalleyfcu.org
(812) 425-5152



Williams LAW

Williams Law, PC
Barbara Coyle Williams — Attorney at Law

420 Main Street, Suite 1000
P.O. box 3486
Evansville, IN 47734-3486
Telephone: 812.434.0991
Fax: 812.434.0992
bcw@bwilliamslaw.com

NHS Celebrating 50 years

language clubs, speech and debate, science projects, academic competitions, business and vocational contests, and the whole spectrum of advanced education beyond the classroom. Throughout its existence, North students have produced an outstanding school newspaper, The North Star, and yearbook, the Compass.

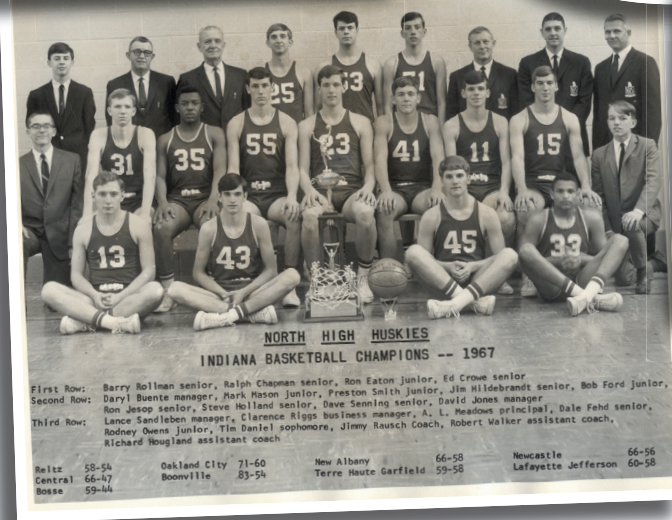
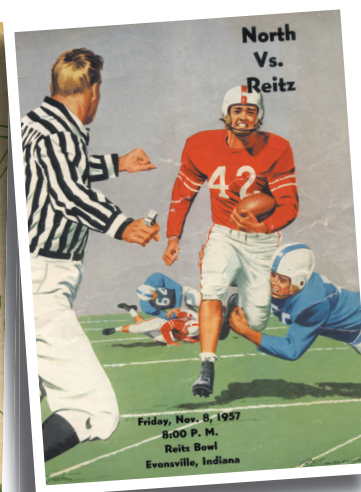
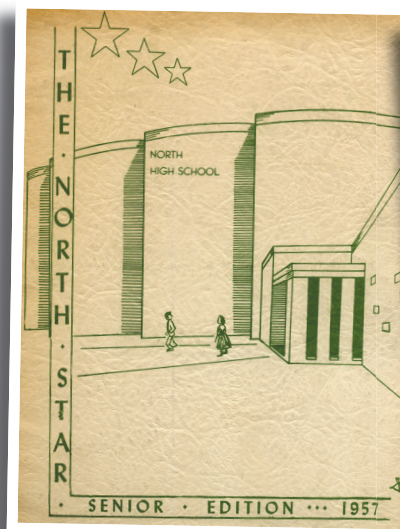
During the last few decades a training center for childhood care was developed incorporating a daycare center which was praised by the State Superintendent of Schools and the Governor during their visits to the program.

North students, like their teachers, have received many honors from state and national organizations and have participated in a myriad of activities. One of those activities is the Farm Bureau Project XL competitions. For the last 11 years, North has had at least one state finalist. Nine students have been awarded over \$29,000. North has won three school state championships and twice North has won two of the individual state championships in one year.

Over the years, many renovations and improvements have been made, and North graduates from the 50's and 60's visit the school and hardly recognize the old Alma Mater. Air conditioning and carpeting throughout the building were some of the improvements of the 80's. In the 90's, many areas were updated and renewed. The school has an enlarged and 21st century media center. Television is available in classrooms and computers are commonplace. A new dining center located over an indoor parking garage has been added. Drama and music productions are performed in an enlarged Performing Arts Center featuring comfortable theater type seating. The art department has enhanced the halls with fine examples of art work by students and alumni who have distinguished themselves in the field of art. In the physical education area, a new weight room and improvements in both gyms are to be noted. New administration offices have been added as well.

In the last 50 years, North High School, its students, faculty, and patrons have striven for excellence in education and have achieved it. The future North High School is bright for those freshman who enter its doors this fall and will be available in the next 50 years to bring excellence to their children and grandchildren.

....2005 - 2006



2005 - 2006 Yearbooks

Our 2005 - 2006 yearbook staff is planning on publishing the school's first ever all-color yearbook. If you would like to place an ad or purchase a yearbook please contact:

Mr. Scott Martin (Publications Advisor)
c/o North High School
2319 Stringtown Rd.
Evansville, IN 47711

Thank you
for 50 years
of excellence
in education.



**EVANSVILLE TEACHERS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**
Everything we do, we do for *you*™

1-800-800-9271 • www.etfcu.org

50 Years of NHS Keepsake

Help celebrate the "Golden Anniversary" of North High School by purchasing a commemorative video tape or CD. Eric Photography and Wet Paint Productions is producing a historical essay of 50 years of North High School.

For more information contact: Jon Siau 477-2701