

History of Cresaptown School

The school was built in 1930 to house 500 students in grades 1-9. Before the new school was built, a two- room schoolhouse stood on the current playground. Twelve rooms were added in 1940 to house an additional 250 students. Shower and recreational rooms were added in 1955.

Grades 7, 8, and 9 students were relocated in 1967 to attend the new Braddock Middle School.

Consequently, Allegany High School became a high school containing students in grades 9-12.

Westside Elementary used the 3rd floor during their remodeling from 1975-77. The Allegany County Instructional Media Center also used the 3rd floor between moves. In 1982-1983, there were 14 self-contained classrooms, 1 kindergarten, 4 special education classrooms, a clearing house for Berkeley Health, a nutrition office, and an office for speech, hearing, and vision.

The sixth grade relocated to Braddock Middle School in 1984. From 1989-1994, there were eight fourth grades and eight fifth grades while Parkside and West Side became K-3 schools.

During 1996-97 school year, a \$5.5 million renovation project was undertaken. During that year, students and staff in grades 2-5 used the Eckhart School, while kindergarten and first grade students were housed at BelAir Elementary. In 2005, pre-kindergarten students were added to the Cresaptown population. At present, approximately 365 students in grades Pre-K-5 are enrolled. In 2004-05, a handicapped accessible playground was constructed. Cresaptown teachers, Mr. Ray Short and Mrs. Barb Amtower, worked with Program Open Space and many local businesses to achieve this great addition to our community and school population. Additional playground equipment was added in 2007. A marbles platform is currently being planned for the playground. Construction is to begin in Spring 2010.

School Song

The Cresaptown school song entitled, "It's Cresaptown" was written by Phrona Pryor Roblyer and assisted by Margaret Winner Carroll, former music teacher for the 1932-1933 school year.

In this little spot of beauty
Which to us is very dear,
Stands our school, the pride of Maryland.
For its colors we now cheer.
Let's give a toast to Cresaptown,
"Oh, may her joy be long,

May her victories last forever

Her fame go down in song."

Chorus

It's Cresaptown It's Cresaptown!

What other could it be?

All hail her name, proclaim her fame

It's Cresaptown for me.

We owe to you, dear mater school,

A debt we cannot pay,

We cannot tell in just this song

Our faith and pride today.

We flaunt your flag of blue and black

From Allegheny's height.

And from the hills and mountain rills

Proclaim your worth and might.

Class History and Gifts

1930 - James C. Powell was awarded an \$85,828.40 contract for construction of the new public school in Cresaptown. Mr. Powell is the great, great, great grandfather of the current third grade Cresaptown student, Coleton Furlow.

1932 - Many people graduated from High School and worked at the Celanese Plant.

1936 - The graduating class of 1936 presented oil painting by John Wentz of Rawlings entitled, "Storyland" It is now hanging in the school library.

1937- The graduating class of 1937 presented a bronze statue of Mercury.

1938 - There was a new banner with the letters, C.J.H.S. in blue and black that was carried by the patrol in parades and later hung in the auditorium.

1939 - Two Bibles were donated to the school. They were presented to the junior high school and the elementary school.

1940 - One of the largest graduating classes, Class of 1940, presented a picture to hang in the school library. The picture still hangs in the library today.

1942 - On the tenth anniversary of the school, a Maryland State flag was purchased and donated to the school.

Hanging in the Cresaptown Elementary School office is an architectural drawing of the school designed by Robert Holt Hitchens. Robert Hitchens used a neo-classical revival style. He also designed the 1932 Allegany County Office Building/ Post Office/ Federal Court Building on Pershing Street in Cumberland. He later drew a portrait of the "old" 1939-1941 Beall High School formerly located in Frostburg. The former Beall High School is the current location of the new Mt. Ridge High School. Additional information on these buildings may be found in "Feldstein's Top Historic Postcard Views of Allegany County, Maryland, 1997". Pastor Francis Asbury once stayed at the Joseph Cresap home near Cresaptown, Maryland. In July 1782, Pastor Asbury was an itinerant preacher who helped bring Methodism to Western Maryland. He stayed with Joseph Cresap while speaking to approximately 200 people in Cumberland. He was the first Bishop of the Methodist Church in America. Centre Street Methodist Church in Cumberland, Maryland, has an addition named after Francis Asbury.

Principals

Richard T. Rizer 1931-1934
Myra M. Nefflen 1934-1960
Oberlin T. Chaney 1960-1976
David L. Phillips 1976-1983
Kathleen B. High 1983-1989
Robert W. Miller 1989-1990
John W. Festerman 1990-1993
L. Blaine Watson 1993-2006
Roxanne C. Reuse 2006-2014
Scott Llewellyn 2014-Present

Secretaries

Grace Filer
Helen Hayden
Elizabeth Higgs 1952-1983
Rosalind Kienhofer 1983-2012
Donica Evans 2012-present