

Legacy of Dunbar High School

1896

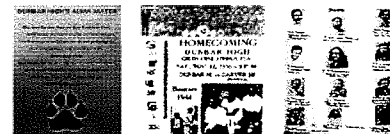
Dunbar High School began in what was known then as the Masonic Hall located on Palmetto Avenue. It had one teacher, Professor Carl Edwards, and a small group of children, with a school term of four months in duration. The following persons served as principals from 1896 to 1924: John Anderson, James Williams, Johns Hopps, B. P. Hartwell, O. F. Wiles, N. W. Ross, Edwin Groover, H. C. Williams, and E. J. W. Day.

1900

A few years later, tourist and dairy magnate, Mr. Gail Borden, moved to Green Cove Springs and donated to the Negro Citizens land for a Public School on Walburg and Cypress Streets. At which time the school had three teachers: Professor John A. Wright, Mrs. Carrie Wright, and Mrs. Emma Bailey. The school term increased to six months.

1908

The first Junior High School graduation was held May 8, 1908, with the late B. F. Hartwell as principal. The following people graduated: Sarah Collins, Anna Willie, Edwin Carter, and William Hall.



1924

One of the school's elementary graduates, W. N. Zanders, was brought back as principal. The first P.T.A. was organized during this term. In the meetings held monthly, monies were raised to purchase school supplies. The trustees then were J. P. Tillinghast, J. C. Willis, and J. W. Locket.



1931

The senior High School had its beginning under Professor R. C. Bannerman as principal, who named it "Dunbar" in honor of Paul Lawrence Dunbar.



1934

The first graduate of the NEW acquired high school was Mrs. Celia Bannerman, the wife of the principal.



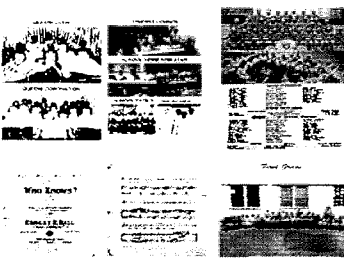
1938

The P.T.A. lead by Mrs. Estelle Trumpler, President, Mrs. Hattie Flowers, Vice-President, Mrs. Rosa Lee Stewart, Secretary, and Mrs. Ruth Bennett, helped raised money which bought for the lunchroom and helped to purchase the present site of the building.



1940

Old Dunbar having been condemned for several years; Principal Bannerman interceded with the Clay County Board of Public Instruction for getting a new building on a new site. The Negro Citizens and teachers, namely, Bernice Hall Forde, Martha Robinson Jones, Rosa B. Aarons, Theresa Redmond Marie, Virginia Clayton Ray, Susie Small, and Mozelle Francis Peters, were sent out to select a site. The site selected was the home site of the renowned Augusta Fells Savage. Miss Savage was happy to sell for this purpose and sold for \$500.00, which the teachers and citizens raised. During this year the old building was torn down and the school was held in the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church and Hall.



1944

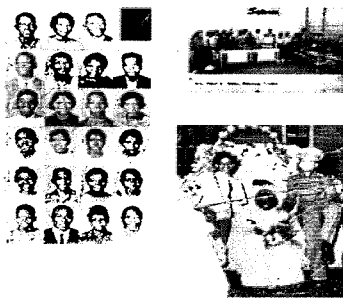
Female graduates of Dunbar High were trained at Bethune-Cookman College to work in war industry jobs with Westinghouse, in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Professor Bannerman, having worked hard these many years, became suddenly ill was unable to complete the task, and resigned due to illness. Thursday morning, October 25, 1945, a fire completely demolished Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church where classes were held. The Church Hall being too small to house the children, classes were moved into the Incomplete building that was being erected on Middleburg Avenue. Given that the site had no doors, windows, or heat, classes were held outdoors with fire being built of tire tubes. Through hardship and toils, teachers and students endeavored to have school. Upon Professor Bannerman's resignation, Theresa R. Marie, a teacher at this time, became principal in the old school. No new members were added to the faculty.



1946

The Principal, Theresa R. Marie, became ill and Homer Williams came to the school as principal with no new members added to the faculty. The following teachers were added to the staff: Eugenia Powell Argrett, Jerusha Major, and Josephine Strong. All graduates of Dunbar High.



1947

N. W. Campbell became principal along with the arrival of a new teacher, Pearl Crump.

1948

James A. Ellerbe was appointed to serve as a principal with F. W. Hinson as a new teacher. Mr. Ellerbe served through 1949. Thomas Breen was added to the staff.

1950

Mr. Hinson became principal and remained until 1954. New teachers added to the staff: Morean Thomas, Mildred Bannerman, and Cornelia Hinson.

Classes are overcrowded; teacher loads were over the minimum, and no provision for the teaching of Science in the High School. The Home Economics teacher attempted to teach without equipment, supplies, and limited seats. Minimum classroom supplies were furnished through the efforts of the teacher's purchases. The newly built Industrial Arts Shop was equipped with new electric machinery but did not have the everyday hand tools, hammers, saws, etc., which boys would need to learn to use. During the school year the following buildings were erected; The Industrial Arts, and Cafeteria as well as the setting up of the first Library Unit. Joseph Johnson was added to the staff.



1951

1954

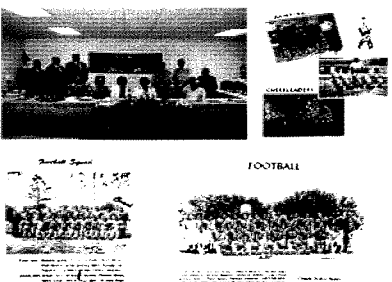
August 17, 1954, Maxwell W. Saxon was appointed principal. Dunbar High School took on a new life by, enriching the curriculum, improving, and beautifying the physical plants and surroundings, and increasing the personnel.



1955

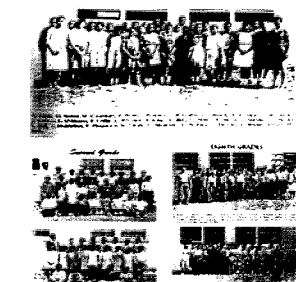
The citizens and organizations of the community purchased electrical appliances, complete with refrigerator, stove, sink, etc., matching the gas kitchen purchased by the school board; with two electric sewing machines given to the department by friends. The newly built Industrial Arts building was dedicated on April 4, 1955, and named after W. N. Zanders, graduate, and former principal of the school. The cafeteria, which had been in use for a year, was dedicated at this time, and named T. R. Marie, former student, principal, and teacher. During the dedication the following distinguished school administrators and citizens were honored with meritorious Service Awards: Hon. Harris C. Long, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Clay County, Green Cove Springs, Florida; Mrs. Hannah B. Miller, Civic and Religious Leader; Mr. Joseph L. Muldrow, Fraternal and Civic Leader; Mrs. Rosa B. Aaron, Retired Teacher; Rev. W. N. Zanders, Graduate of Dunbar, former Principal, Missionary, and Evangelist; All resided in Green Cove Springs.

Dunbar saw the appointment of Mr. Gavin Brown, Sr., who served as principal until Dunbar closed in 1968.



1960

One of Dunbar's most renowned graduates, Dr. Bernard Fennell, became a member of the United States Diplomatic Corps.



1962

The long-awaited gymnasium became a reality and named in honor of Clay County District school superintendent, Harris Long, but was later renamed after Dunbar High's state championship coach Thomas Hogan.



1964

The Lady Panthers Basketball team brought home the first State Championship to Clay County. The same year the boys finished second in state completion.



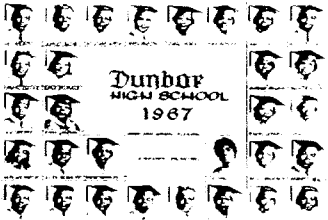
1965

Dunbar graduated its largest graduating class with well over fifty Students.



1967

Dunbar High School graduated its last senior class.



Wall Dimensions: 145.75"w x 108"h