

COUNTDOWN: DAY 100 to DAY 76

DAY 76 - "Mr. J.R. Clark, who later became superintendent, was added to the faculty. He established the **physical education department** in the high school, which included both **football** and **basketball**. Some of our opponents were **Smithville, Parkville, Linden** and **Liberty**," said Amelia Keller. "And, yes, occasionally we won a ball game." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 77 - "Also in 1921, bonds were voted for a **new elementary school** to be known as **McElroy Dagg School**. With its completion in the fall of 1922 at a cost of \$63,000, the **high school moved back** to the original **Kenneth building** with the **Old Green Building** attached to the north end to serve as an auditorium and gymnasium." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 78 - During the **1921-1922 school year**, the board ruled that "all children who will be **six years old** in 60 days from the opening of school shall be permitted to attend, and that all children attending school in District Number 74 shall be required to be **vaccinated for small pox** unless they could show a good vaccine mark or have had small pox." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 79 - In the 1920-1921 school year, the district had five schools. **Harlem, Glenwood, Cooley** and **Kenneth** served as elementary schools, and the "**Old Green Building**" served as the senior high school. But things were about to change -- again. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 80 - **Avondale** was the first district to request **annexation** to the existing North Kansas City School District and was annexed in **September 1915**. "As a result, the east boundary of the district was moved three-fourths of a mile east. Bonds were soon voted for a **school building in**

Avondale at a cost of \$2,500. The first school building in Avondale, which opened during the 1915-1916 school year, consisted of three rooms -- two on the first floor and one in the basement. It was named **Cooley Elementary School** in honor of Mr. H.M. Cooley, who was one of the earlier settlers in the community and instrumental in bringing about the annexation." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 81 - "In the meantime," Keller resumes, "following the end of the war and the return of the boys, **Mr. James Watts** had been elected **superintendent of schools in 1920**. In order to become a **first-class high school**, we had to add two courses. Mr. Watts taught **history**, and I taught **trigonometry** for four weeks after the normal closing of schools. In the spring of 1921, we presented our **first graduating class of two girls -- Effie Marie Coffman and Beulah Johnson**." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 82 - "We did not wear a different dress to school each day in those days," said Keller. "One good woolen dress sufficed for the whole winter. We had little trouble with **noon tardies** then, too, for there was really not much of a shopping center on the north side of the river, and therefore, **not many loafing places** for the students." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 83 - "We enjoyed the **leisurely walk down town** even if there were no sidewalks," said **Amelia Keller** in the early days of the district. "The road wasn't particularly dangerous because there were very few cars, and they could not make the excessive speed of thirty-five miles per hour. What a picture we must have made walking down dusty Armour road -- ankle-length dresses, high button shoes, and dark woolen hose!" ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 84 - "We had a **pot-bellied stove** on which we made hot soup and hot drinks," said Keller. "Frequently, however, to break the monotony, we walked down town for lunch. We had plenty of time in those days, for we had a whole hour for noon. There was a very good restaurant in the west end of the building which now houses **Katz Drug**. Such delicious plate lunches as we did have in those days before the hurried-hamburger took over the noon lunch!" ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 85 - A **bell hook-up system** was connected the elementary school, and the high school teachers were responsible for the bells. Keller said, "Imagine the frustration of the elementary teachers when occasionally the secondary teachers rang the bells on time!" ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 86 - According to Keller by 1920, the increased enrollment in the elementary grades made it necessary for the high school to move to the "**old green building**", which had been used as Y.M.C.A. headquarters during the war. Two of the rooms in the building were separated by a partition of beaver board. Since the partitions didn't reach to the ceiling, Keller said that the "amo, amas, amat" of Latin class was frequently mixed with Algebra's "x plus y equals z". ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 87 - The **increased enrollment** made **Miss Amelia's teaching assignment** a bit rough. She was the sole teacher and was also serving as superintendent and principal of Kenneth School in the fall of 1919. But at Christmas time, a **Miss Schrader**, a student from junior college, was employed as a part-time teacher to lighten her load. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 88 - During the war years, **Miss Amelia** said that things looked blue. "However, there was a strong 8th grade class in the next room. Rumors were out they would not come back to our high school." That was when Keller gave them a pep talk about the **value of a high school education** and in the **fall of 1919** the entire 8th grade class of 10 boys and two girls enrolled for high school work. Of the 12, five boys remained through their four years of high school. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 89 - **Amelia Keller** served as superintendent from 1919-20. From 1913-1920 there had been six superintendents: **Charles Miller**, **Birdella Dagg** who served two years, **William McCoy**, **Guy Price**, **Marian Conway** and **Amelia Keller**. Never again after "Miss Amelia" would a superintendent be hired to serve for only a single school year. Keller was followed by **James L. Watts**, who served from 1920-1928. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 90 - The **Kenneth School**, likewise, underwent many changes because of the war. Both **Mr. Price** and **Mr. Everett** enlisted, and **Miss Marian Conway** was appointed to succeed Mr. Price as superintendent. High school enrollment dropped to five students. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 91 - In 1917 the district and the city became more **involved in war activities** as **World War I** progressed. The **Sears** building later occupied by **National Bellas Hess** and all the area west of it "as far as the intersection of Armour and Swift was used for the **housing and training of recruits**. Across the street north was a long, cheaply-constructed green frame building which served as the social center and Y.M.C.A. for the boys." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 92 - During the **1916-17 school year**, the state inspector "approved our first two years of high school" and **Kenneth School** rated as a **third-class school**. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 93 - When "**Miss Amelia**" began teaching in North Kansas City Schools, she was one of three teachers in the high school along with **Superintendent Guy Price** and a **Mr. Everett**. She stood all day before her class. There was no desk or chair in the room for the teacher, and the superintendent had no telephone in his office. One room in the **four-room Kenneth School** had been divided into two rooms and an office to make room for the **20 high school students** in 1917. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 94 - Amelia Keller would later write about her 40 consecutive years spent as a "teacher, superintendent, janitor, cook, dean of girls and attendance officer" in the North Kansas City School District. She attended **Glenwood School** for six years, **Webster School** in Kansas City for one year and **Central High School** for four years, graduating in 1905. She earned her first degree at the **Warrensburg State Normal School** and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from **Missouri University** in 1925, accumulating additional credit hours from various universities to surpass the master's degree. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 95 - Grade twelve was added to the **Kenneth School** for the 1916-17 school year. When **Amelia Keller** began teaching in the North Kansas City School District in the fall of 1917, Kenneth was a four-year high school. ([Click to comment!](#))

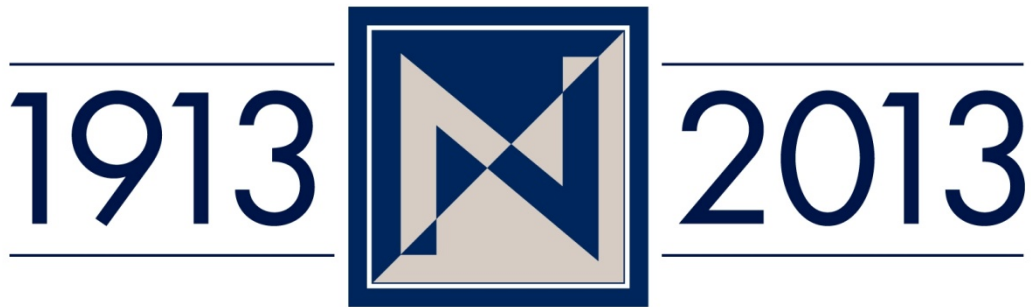
DAY 96 - There was continued interest in **teacher certification** during the 1916-17 school year. **Mr. W.L. McCoy** was superintendent at that time and urged the board to establish a **standard of qualifications** for teachers. The board voted that in the future, only teachers with a First Grade Normal or State Certificate would be considered for hire, and current staff were given a year to complete requirements for the First Grade Certificate. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 97 - As early as its third year, the North Kansas City School District Board of Education recognized that **teachers** should be helped in attaining a higher standard of efficiency and a better grade of certification. According to Amelia Keller, "it was agreed to **adopt the standards and methods** outlined by the County Superintendent of Schools in all primary departments". That same year of 1915-16, the board also adopted a **course of study** for the high school. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 98 - When the newly formed district began school in the fall of 1913, **Kenneth School** was not the only school in operation. **Miss Margaret Land** taught at the **Glenwood School** and **Miss Teresa Hempel** taught at the **Harlem School**. Both earned \$70 per month. That fall, enrollment in the three schools was 32 students. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 99 - **Kenneth School** opened in the fall of 1913 with eight elementary grades and the first year of high school. **Mr. Charles Miller** was principal and the **first superintendent** at a salary of \$85 per month, and **Miss Birdella Dagg** was a teacher in the primary department at a salary of \$70 per month. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 100 - The **first bond issue** was voted in June 1913 for \$5,000 to buy the site and build the district's first school building at Twenty-First and Howell where the First United Methodist Church now stands. Called the **Kenneth School** in honor of **Mr. Kenneth DeWeese**, an attorney who had helped the district through its early days, the two-room structure was built at a cost of \$3,922. ([Click to comment!](#))



COUNTDOWN: DAY 75 to DAY 51

DAY 51 - "In April, 1947, a four-acre tract costing \$1,350 per acre was purchased for the **new Brookwood School** to be known hereafter as **Eastwood School**. The old **Glenwood School building** and grounds were sold in 1948." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 52 - "In 1943 **Dr. Litle** issued to the teachers some new rules and regulations passed by the board. One was again concerned with **married women teachers**. This time it was decided that married women whose husbands were in the service could be employed and that two women teachers who were married during the school year could continue on a temporary basis ... Any teacher, too, who was the sole support of his family could receive an additional \$100 on the year." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 53 - During the **school year of 1940-1941**, "Seventh and eighth grade pupils from Cooley were being transported to junior high in North Kansas City." Vocational agriculture was added to the curriculum, and the "board again voted against district expansion because an immediately building program would be unavoidable. To accept one (district) would mean that other areas would have to be accepted, with no end in sight." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 54 - "In 1941 **Superintendent Litle** spoke of the **defense program** and of Lake City, which was open for inspection. Even then, many of us kept thinking that it (war) couldn't happen to us. By December, we knew better... We lost several of the faculty men. Some went to serve in the **armed forces**; others went to work in the **bomber plant**. **Defense classes**, which met in the evening, were set up in the **Industrial Arts Department**." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 55 - In the school year 1939-1940, the district had four open elementary schools and one senior high school. **Glenwood** was closed and no longer used as an elementary. Existing elementary schools included **Harlem**, **Brookwood**, a new **Cooley** school opened in 1930-1931, and **Dagg**. In the coming decade, elementary schools would more than double. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 56 - During the decade from 1939-1950, there were definite signs of progress. "Across the street from the high school stood the new **North Kansas City Public Library**, dedicated in 1939," said Keller. According to **Bob Hiatt**, former assistant principal at North Kansas City High School, **architect Edward Fuller** designed both the library and the Northtown stadium. Hiatt said that the rock wall was one of the last **WPA projects** in Missouri. Rock, quarried from nearby Riverside, was used to complete the wall project. Construction ran from 1939 until September 1941 when the first football game was played at the stadium. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 57 - "In the fall of 1937, **Mr. V. R. Kinsey** purchased **three school buses** and operated them on a contract basis with the North Kansas City Board of Education. They traveled approximately 180 miles each day and transported about 300 students. Each bus made two trips per day." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 58 - "During the time that **Mr. C. Willard Smith** served as superintendent, the kindergarten was taken over by the school district and became a regular part of the school program ... In 1935-1936 a levy of five cents on the \$100 evaluation was levied to support the kindergarten." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 59 - During the 1932-1933 school year, the first **salary schedule** for teachers went into effect. Teachers receiving \$100 per month would suffer a loss of 5% and those receiving more than \$100 per month would suffer a loss of 10%. By 1933-1934 the **Depression** was beginning to be felt throughout the school system. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 60 - "In 1932 and 1933 the **Kindergarten Association** was allowed the use of a school room at **Dagg**. The teacher had to meet the approval of the superintendent." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 61 - "The **high school cafeteria** was opened in 1931 by **Mrs. Carolyn Owsley** with student help. The following year the operation was taken over by the school district and has remained so ever since." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 62 - The **Stock Market Crash of 1929** didn't impact the school district immediately. **Amelia Keller** said, "The school and its operation here in North Kansas City did not feel the impact until a few years later ... Here and there was a bit of unemployment, only to grow more and more. The farmer could sell his produce at a much deflated price -- young families moved in with relatives leaving vacant homes. Labor was cheap, so there was little to spend. Taxes could not be met, so the schools suffered. For the time being, at least, the beginning of the Depression was ignored." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 63 - "Early in the thirties the board was again confronted with the idea of **employing married women** as teachers." In 1930 the board decided "Married women who are unencumbered by husbands and who are supporting themselves may be employed by the board so long as their services are satisfactory." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 64 - "On July 23, 1929, the board made a ruling that all children entering the first grade must present a **birth certificate**. **Avondale** petitioned for a new building, and in **December**

1929, bonds were voted to the amount of \$175,000 of which \$50,000 was for the Avondale building, \$25,000 for an addition to Dagg and \$75,000 for additions to the high school." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 65 - "Our **first music instructor** came in 1926," said Keller. Many of her students had little previous musical training. Keller adds, "A year later, the music instructor was paid transportation to travel to schools in the district. She was to arrange her own transportation." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 66 - "In the annual election in the spring of 1926, the district approved **free textbooks**." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 67 - "As time went by, many courses and activities had been added to enrich the high school program. **Home economics** and **industrial arts** for example had been added in 1924. The **business education department** was added during the 1925-26 term. This year also marked the publication of **The Owl**, the first yearbook." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 68 - The old **Kenneth building** was for sale in 1926. Bidders offered from \$300 to \$650. It was sold and moved to a lot on East Twenty-First Street and stood as the first building east of the Masonic building. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 69 - "**Governor Baker** made the address at the **dedication on January 24, 1926** ... Only about half of the building as it now stands was built then," said Keller. "Of course we had the usual problems connected with the opening of the new building." The regulation of the heating system was one, but the new school boasted a **telephone!** ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 70 - "On October 14, 1924, **bonds** to the extent of \$190,000 were voted for a **new high school**. It was in 1925 about Christmas time that the new high school was ready for use," said Keller. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 71 - "By the following year the size of the building was doubled to two rooms. Because the distance to **Avondale** was so great for the younger children to walk, grades one through six came back to **Brookwood**. So many, however, came that first day that the sixth grade was sent back to Avondale. **Miss Dorothy Hunt** and **Miss Georgia Collins** were the new teachers at Brookwood." ([Click to comment!](#))

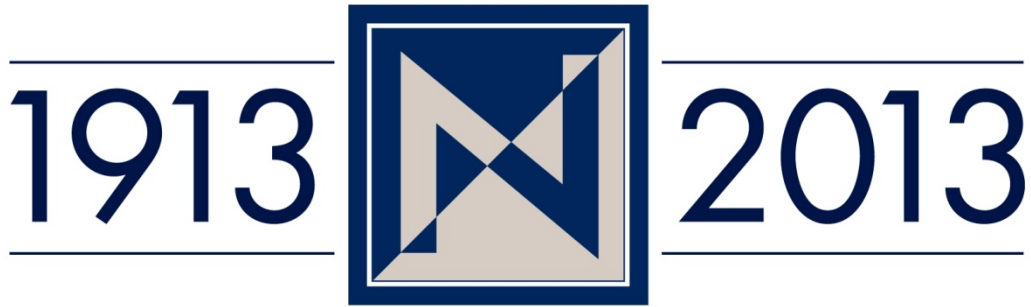
DAY 72 - "By the **1923-1924 school year**, there was a total of **24 faculty members** -- eight at the **high school**, seven at **Dagg**, five at **Avondale**, one at **Brookwood**, one at **Glenwood** and two at **Harlem**. Brookwood had been added this school year as "a large one-room school. Brookwood worked closely with Avondale and accommodated only students in the 7th and 8th grades. **Miss Emma Morton** was the teacher." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 73 - During **1922-1923** "two young ladies requested the use of a room for a **kindergarten class**, but the motion was denied." Two interesting rules passed by the board included: 1) that all **entertainment** held in the schools be under the supervision of the superintendent including

graduation exercises and that 2) in the future, the board would present **contracts to the teachers** they wished to retain without an application on the part of the teacher. ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 74 - "The **board** in 1922-1923 considered the establishment of a **junior high school** but made no definite plans. The **school district valuation** was now \$5,500,000 with an indebtedness of \$84,500 and a total **levy of \$1.85**." ([Click to comment!](#))

DAY 75 - "All games were played in the day time; the **football field** was on a vacant lot south of the building which now houses the J.C. Penney Company. Our **school colors**, which originally were blue and white, were changed to **purple and gold**." ([Click to comment!](#))



COUNTDOWN: DAY 26 to Day 50

DAY 26 - "The **Center for Educational Development (CED)** was opened at the beginning of the 1972-73 school year. The two-story brick building is climate-controlled and carpeted. It was built to provide a facility where staff members could do diagnostic work with the children, design individual learning systems for children, and assist with in-service education and research." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 27 - "Two additional elementary schools were also constructed. Both **Ravenwood Elementary** and **Topping Elementary** opened in **1967**. Ravenwood had two pods with six teaching stations each. Topping had three pods with four teaching stations. This **open-concept** reflected the educational philosophy of the time -- 'classrooms without walls.' The two new elementary schools were air-conditioned." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 28 - "**Oak Park Senior High School** began with the approval of a \$3,200,000 bond to build a facility that would hold 2,000 pupils. While \$3,200,000 may sound like a lot of money for a school, it was actually quite reasonable. Per square foot, Oak Park cost much less than many similar facilities that were not climate-controlled. Oak Park was the **first air-conditioned high school** in the District." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 29 - During this period, with **R. B. Doolin** as superintendent, two of the District's **three senior high schools** were constructed. **Oak Park** opened in September 1965, and **Winnetonka** in March 1971. The rapidly growing population in the district necessitated the two additional high schools. **District enrollment** peaked in 1970 with 22,840 students. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 30 - "Thirty-two **television sets** were purchased in **1962-63** in an effort to enrich instruction through utilization of **KCDS-ETV Channel 19** facilities." By 1963 there were 31 buildings, 642 high school graduates, 735 faculty members and 17,273 students. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 31 - "Our efforts to further education were extended even more in **September 1960** when an **adult education program** was inaugurated." "New techniques are currently being tried to **improve instruction**. The **ungraded primary idea**, a pilot project, began in **January 1962**. It is being tested on the kindergarten level and is planned to encompass eventually grades one through three by adding a grade each year." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 32 - In **1958-59**, an **orthopedically handicapped class** was established at **Briarcliff Elementary**. It was the only one in Clay and Platte Counties. "Home-bound instruction was arranged for students forced to be out of school for six weeks or longer because of physical disability. The installation of **special telephone equipment** which makes possible a two-way system of communication is also being used for the **physically disabled** to receive classroom instruction." **Partially-sighted pupils** were also able to receive instruction with the assistance of sight-saving devices and **those who were deaf** received special instruction in Kansas City for which the district paid tuition. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 33 - "In 1959-60, two full-time teachers were employed to teach **Spanish** in grade four and in 1962-63 the program was extended to include grade seven. **Special education classes** have been organized too." Special education classes were added to the junior high curriculum and two more classes were established in the elementary grades to augment the program which had been started in elementary the year before. "The following year, 1958-59, this type of education was introduced in the senior high curriculum." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 34 - "A renovation of science rooms, the **girls' physical education department**, and the offices was completed in 1961-62. In 1963, the **auditorium** in the main building was completely renovated. A **central administration office** building was completed and occupied in November 1958. ... The construction of this building became imperative when increased enrollment necessitated the employment of more teachers, specialists, supervisor, administrators, cooks, custodians, maintenance men, bus drivers and clerical assistants. In **Transportation** alone, where 79 persons are employed, 62 buses were used in 1962-63 to transport 8,734 students a total approximate distance of 653,572 miles. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 35 - Changes to the existing **North Kansas City High School** were made in the late **1950s, early 1960s**. "A new building for the **cafeteria** and **music department** was annexed to the northwest part of the high school in 1958-59. In 1961-62, an **industrial arts building** was constructed directly west of this addition. A **library** was built the same year on the south side of the Annex Hall, which connects the old building with the 1949 addition on the west side. A **language laboratory** was added at this same time to **Dagg Elementary**, which became part of the high school in 1957-58." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 36 - "The **high school** remains the only one in that category although plans for a **new one, fully air-conditioned, to be ready by 1965** are formulated. The **present high school building** with its well-planned additions and renovations is still one of the beautiful and functional structures in the district despite the fact that the initial building was constructed in 1924-25." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 37 - "Three more junior high buildings since Northgate in 1957 have been added. **Eastgate**, the second junior high, was opened in September of 1958; both **Antioch Junior High** and **Maple Park Junior High**, the first air conditioned secondary school in the Missouri Valley region, were completed and ready for occupancy in September, 1962." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 38 - As **Amelia Keller** states, there would be others to record the growth of the district. From **1957-1963** when the district celebrated its **Golden Anniversary**, more was recorded. "One of the most obvious signs of our growth is in the increased number of buildings which we now have. The number of elementary school buildings has increased by 17 in the six years since then. Five of these are new buildings while 12 have been acquired through annexation. The new ones include **Briarcliff** and **Lakewood** in 1957-58 and **Chapel Hill**, **Forest Hill** and **Gracemor** in 1961-62. Acquired through annexation are **Linden East**, **Linden West**, **Englewood**, **Clardy**, **Gashland**, **Faubion**, **Davidson**, **Meadowbrook** and **Oakwood Manor** in 1959-60. **Pleasant Valley** in August 1960, **Nashua** in August 1961, and **Birmingham** in August 1963. **Minneville School District** was annexed in August 1961, but the building was never used." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 39 - "It is now **1957**, my retirement time," said **Amelia Keller**. "There are now **285 faculty members**, not four; there are **7,014 students**, not 32; there are **13 buildings**, not three; and there are **326 high school graduates**, not two. The history of the district will go on. It will be the responsibility of others to record its inevitable growth as the years roll by." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 40 - "A few changes here and there in the curriculum marked the **1956-1957 term**. A supervisor of **elementary physical education** was appointed to direct this program in the schools. A **clinical psychologist** was appointed to direct **Special Education**. Two classes were organized for the mentally retarded children in the elementary schools. The **American Field Service International Scholarship Program** was initiated," said Keller. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 41 - "The newly constructed **Chouteau Elementary School** was completed and occupied in **October 1955**. **Northgate Junior High**, which was under construction, and while waiting for its completion, which was not until **March 18, 1957**, both the senior high and junior high grades used the high school building by going on a **compressed schedule**." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 42 - "In 1955, **Dr. H.W. Schooling**, who had been superintendent for six years, resigned. He was succeeded by **Dr. R.B. Doolin**." Amelia Keller said, "Our chief concern at school was how to keep ahead of students. Classrooms were crowded, and some of the **administrative offices** were in the **basement** of the North Kansas City Public Library." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 43 - "In 1954-1955, five new elementary schools were opened: **Oak Ridge**, **Winnwood**, **Crestview**, **Golden Oaks**, and **Maplewood**. Additional sites for **Moscow** and **Briarcliff** had been purchased...In April 1955, the board purchased from **Mr. V.R. Kinsey** the **school bus fleet** and appointed a supervisor of transportation. Mr. Kinsey had owned and operated the **bus transportation system** for 18 years." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 44 - During **1953-1954**, combined teacher salaries were well over \$500,000 annually. "At this time there were **187 teachers**, not counting special teachers and supervisors. It was reported to the board that the **predicted enrollment for 1960** was 10,000 as compared with an estimated 5,600 for the following year." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 45 - "In **1953** the **summer school program** for pupils was initiated. A tuition fee of \$15 per month was charged. Twenty students were in attendance at these first sessions in six weeks. Also in 1953, there was a **summer workshop program for teachers**. The required teacher attendance in summer school for six semester hours of college work was counted for those teachers attending the workshop. Nineteen teachers participated." ([Share a Memory](#))

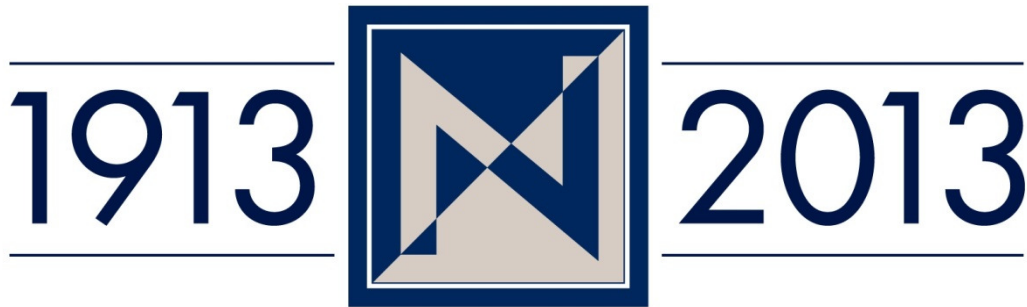
DAY 46 - "In **1952** there were 146 teachers...and an approximate **enrollment of 5,000 pupils**. **Mr. Forrest Greer** was appointed as assistant superintendent in April of that year. In December a five percent increase in school population since September demanded new housing facilities. A new bond issue of \$1,250,000 was needed to buy 104 acres for 11 sites and to construct schools at **Greenwood, Munger, Golden Oaks and Barnes**." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 47 - "The year 1950 continued with the annexation of other districts. In October of that year **Greenwood School** became part of our district. That same fall, **Harlem School** was closed." Another bond was issued for \$250,000 to improve **Big Shoal and Barnes**, and to purchase a site for **Crestview Elementary School**. "An option for 7.13 acres at a cost of \$5,700 had been obtained for Crestview in October 1951." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 48 - "Three important annexations closed this period from 1940-49," said Amelia Keller. "In July 1949, the **Moscow School District** No. 71 was annexed. Two elementary schools -- the three-room **Moscow School** and the **Barnes School** were in this district. In August of that same year the **Munger School District** No. 65 became part of our district. This included one elementary school -- the **Munger School**. In October 1949, **Big Shoal School District** No. 63 was annexed. **Big Shoal Elementary** was the only school in this district." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 49 - "Another attempt was made on March 8, 1949, to settle the problem of **hiring married teachers!** This new provision was that "Married teachers, either male or female, may be employed unless the spouse is employed in the school system. In March 1949, **Dr. L.O. Little** resigned as superintendent." His successor was **Dr. H.W. Schooling** who had served as principal of the high school since 1944. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 50 - "The year **1948-1949** marked the opening of the **Norclay Elementary School**. This \$210,000 building was found in two years to be inadequate for the influx of pupils." Currently there were "1,090 at the high school, 652 at **Dagg**, 283 at **Cooley**, 200 at **Brookwood** and 93 at **Harlem**. Tuition for high school students was \$135, of which the local district paid \$85, and the state paid \$50. Tuition was \$85 for elementary students and \$45 for kindergarten pupils." ([Share a Memory](#))



COUNTDOWN: DAY 1 to Day 25

Day 1 - Succeeding Dr. Cummings in July 2009 was Deputy Superintendent **Todd E. White** who had served as superintendent of Harrisonville Schools for seven years before coming to the district in 2007. Currently as Superintendent of North Kansas City Schools, Dr. White oversees a school district of nearly 19,000 students, attending 21 elementary schools, 5 middle schools and 4 high schools. During the 2012-13 school year, the fourth year of the district's one-to-one laptop initiative, the power of Apple technology was placed in the hands of approximately 6,000 high school students in the form of MacBook Air laptops, and another 1,750 were given to high school teachers. A middle school pilot using the iPad mini is expected to be underway later this month. Coming changes in education that include MSIP 5, Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessment are but some of the many challenges ahead for Dr. White, the Board of Education, district staff and our school families. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 2 - Supt. Thomas P. Cummings retired in **June 2009**. In his many roles over the years as classroom teacher, high school basketball coach, principal, central office administrator and mentor, Cummings continued to build his signature partnerships—inside and outside the organization—to supported the achievement and needs of the district's 18,000 students. Known for his collaborative leadership and willingness to reach out to the community he served, Cummings developed programs such as **Partners in Education**, the **Senior Tax Exchange Program** and the district **Education Foundation**. He was the catalyst for two highly successful **municipal partnerships** that included a **shared library media center** in the city of North Kansas City and a **natatorium** in Gladstone. Inside the organization, Cummings developed **school site-based decision making councils** and regularly brought together all district leadership. He listened to student needs by creating the **Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee** that allowed high school students a forum where they could meet with and advise the Superintendent's administrative team and Board of Education. During his 14-year tenure, the district doubled its **pre-K programs**, **implemented all-day kindergarten**, created the **AchievementPlus program** with its wrap-around services for children and families in need, and expanded **English language support programs**. Cummings guided the development of the academically rigorous **Distinguished Achievement Program** with its four diploma options that include the **Gold Medallion Honors Diploma** and world-renown **International Baccalaureate**. He also oversaw the **opening of two new schools** — **Northview Elementary** in 1999 and **Staley**

High School in 2008. In June 2009, the district Central Office building was renamed the **Thomas P. Cummings Administrative Center**. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 3 - The building of a 4th high school, **Staley High School**, and a 21st elementary, **Bell Prairie Elementary**, came as enrollment continued to increase in the northern-most part of the district. Both schools were built with energy conservation features, including geothermal water wells to control heating and cooling in the buildings. Both earned **LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)** certification. Staley earned Silver distinction and was the first K-12 educational facility in Missouri to earn LEED certification. Bell Prairie was the second Missouri K-12 educational facility to earn LEED, but was the first to earn Gold and the first elementary in the state to earn LEED Gold. Staley opened in the fall of 2008 and Bell Prairie opened the following fall 2009. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 4 - Voters in **April 2001** approved a \$69.9 million bond issue and 27-cent levy increase for the "Cool Schools" initiative to air-condition district schools. Additionally, the district was able to phase-in all-day kindergarten at its 20 elementary sites and upgrade libraries not meeting accreditation standards. The bond/levy also generated an annual allowance to maintain and secure facilities and technology. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 5 - Northview Elementary School opened at 9201 N. Indiana Ave. in **August 1999** with 315 students. The district's twentieth elementary school is the first to have installed an environmentally friendly and cost-effective geothermal heating and cooling system. Two hundred geothermal wells were dug, near the school, which were each 200 feet deep. Northview is the first and largest school in the metropolitan area that is completely geothermally heated and cooled. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 6 - YouthFriends began as a small pilot program in 1995 among six area school districts and 140 volunteers. The school districts of Center; Independence; Kansas City, Kan.; Raytown and Shawnee Mission joined with North Kansas City Schools in that pilot program to match children ages 5 to 17 with caring adult role models. To-date, according to the YouthFriends program, they have networked "more than 70 school districts in two states (Missouri and Kansas) and over the past 14 years those school districts have screened, trained and placed more than 39,000 mentors who have positively touched the lives of more than 260,000 young people in one-to-one and group relationships". ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 7 - "**Dr. Thomas P. Cummings** has been appointed the Superintendent. He had served as the district's Assistant Superintendent for Instruction since 1986. After having served as Interim Superintendent from October 1994 to January 1995, Dr. Cummings was named superintendent by the Board of Education. A reception in his honor held on **January 23, 1995**, at Winnetonka High School, was attended by staff and community members. Dr. Cummings' era of leadership will begin the next phase of district history." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 8 - "**Dr. Gene Denisar** was superintendent for 10 years when he left the district in **October 1994**. His accomplishments include the implementation of the **seven-period day** at the

high schools, the **American Citizen Class** and its 36-hour service component, the development of a **strategic plan**, the implementation of **shared-decision making** and **collaborative negotiations**, \$50 million of building improvements, installation of at least one computer lab in every school, and passage of six bond and levy initiatives. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 9 - "As of **1994**, the district consists of **19 elementary schools, four middle schools, three high schools** and six district buildings for offices and storage. Employing 1,126 teachers, 859 classified staff members and 61 administrative staff members makes the district one of the largest employers in the Kansas City area. Currently, the theme for the district is, "It takes a whole community to raise a child." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 10 - North Kansas City School District was growing once again. The district's enrollment had increased from **15,789 in 1990** to **16,409 in 1994**. **Fox Hill Elementary** was constructed and opened in 1990. Several building expansions also took place. **Lakewood Elementary** experienced another fire in **February 1991** that damaged some classrooms. **Northgate Community Education Center** was closed in **July 1992** as part of a comprehensive cost-cutting effort. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 11 - "Investment in **computer technology** dramatically increased during 1981-89. Between the years of 1983 and 1985, the district purchased a lab of 15 computers for each of the three high schools and the four middle schools. Also, each elementary school received 2-4 computers. As a result of the labs being purchased for the high schools, introductory classes in **Data Processing and Computer Programming** in the **BASIC language** were offered to students. And, in 1985, the district offered a computer application course on **Appleworks** in the high schools. During 1985-88 the PTAs and Chapter 11 monies purchased computers for the elementary schools on an individual basis. Pilot elementary schools also received **card readers** for the elementary reading series during 1985-88. In 1986-87, the district purchased **Apple IIe computers** with 128K of memory and disk drives to increase the high school labs to **30 Apple IIe computers**. Fifteen **IBM compatible computers** were purchased for each of the high schools during 1987-88. And, the middle school labs were increased to 28 computers by fundraisers and PTA purchases. The district allocated \$700,000 for computer technology purchases during the 1988-89 school year and \$450,000 during the 1989-90 school year." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 12 - "On August 5, 1986, a **school levy increase** was passed on its third appearance on the ballot. It was the **first levy passed in the district since 1970**. An additional 92 cents was added to the district's levy, making it \$2.99. The levy increase originated because of the district's deficit spending during the past six years. This occurred as expenses grew faster than revenues. The district was forced to dip into its balances since no levy increase had been put before the public for nearly 16 years. This levy was the only one during this time period." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 13 - "The **Parents As Teachers** program started in the fall of 1984. It was the result of **Missouri Senate Bill 658**. The program was designed to help parents fine-tune their parenting skills and aid children in their physical, mental and social growth during the crucial early years of child development. Service was provided to 195 families at the Northgate Community

Education Center and in their homes by three parent educators. By the 1988-89 school year, the program had expanded to serve 738 families with 15 parent educators." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 14 - "Dr. **Raymond Waier**, superintendent, resigned in 1983. **Donald Kumpy**, Deputy Superintendent, was named Acting Superintendent. A consulting firm was hired to search for a new superintendent. Two candidates were selected as finalists, and a public reception was held in September 1983. The Board of Education split their decision when they voted on the finalists. In April 1984, after a school board election, the search for a superintendent was reopened. **Dr. S. Gene Denisar** was hired, and he started in September 1984. As a result of the split board, the **State of Missouri mandated** that the North Kansas City School District have a **seven-member school board**." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 15 - "No new buildings were constructed during **1981-89**. However, two more elementary schools were closed. **Norclay Elementary School** was closed in 1984, but it was made a part of **North Kansas City High School**. Norclay housed classes for foreign language, mathematics, home economics, art, driver education, business and special education for the high school. **Pleasant Valley Elementary School** was closed in 1985, later to be reopened as the district's **Early Childhood Center** in the summer of 1988. Also, **Lakewood Elementary** had repairs after a fire damaged the gym in August 1989." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 16 - "The district has chosen to offer some of its **vocational courses** through "**theme schools**" as opposed to one central vocational school. For example, **North Kansas City High School** is responsible for the industrial theme school courses in **auto mechanics** and **building trades**. Students from all district high schools may attend these classes. Students also have an opportunity to participate in an **area vocational/technical school** that offers training in other vocational programs. Other district students attend **Maple Woods Community College** (MWCC) **Aviation Maintenance classes** at the downtown airport." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 17 - "The district made its **first investment in computer technology in 1979** with the purchase of microcomputers. Radio Shack's TRS 80's with 4K of memory and cassette recorders were the first computers in the district. The philosophy on computer use in the school district was to focus on computer programming and data processing. During 1979, the **Business Theme School** located at Oak Park High School also purchased four computers. And, in 1980, grants made it possible for **one Apple computer** to be placed in one math class at both **Antioch and Eastgate middle schools**." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 18 - "Dr. **Raymond Waier** was hired as the new superintendent in **1977**. He came to the district from the Kirkwood (Missouri) School District, where he had served as the superintendent. Dr. Waier was hired to perform the reorganization of the school district." ... "His approach was personal: He held 136 coffees in patrons' homes to familiarize himself with the community. He oversaw the reorganization in 1980 when the district closed 10 buildings, changed junior high schools to middle schools, and made the high schools 9th through 12th grade. Changes also included 5,000 students being transferred to different schools, 375 teachers being reassigned, the transportation system being realigned, and a massive move of classroom

furniture. Dr. Waier established a close relationship with the community colleges, and the district became one of the first to offer college credits. He also introduced vocational programs such as the computer program at Oak Park High School." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 19 - "**Dr. R.B. Doolin** resigned on March 22,1977, effective July 1,1977. Dr. Doolin had served the district as superintendent for 22 years. While Dr. Doolin was superintendent, the district witnessed a magnitude of changes. Some of those changes were: pupil enrollment increased three and a half times, certificated staff increased four and a half times, classified staff increased nine times, school buildings increased from 12 to 37. To help signify Dr. Doolin's contributions to the district, the **Center for Educational Development** was renamed **the R.B. Doolin Center for Educational Development** in 1977." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 20 - "**Reorganization** also included changing the **junior high schools to middle schools**. This change altered the grade levels at all of the schools. Elementary schools became grades K-5, instead of K-6. Middle schools housed grades 6-8. Senior high schools were changed to high schools, housing grades 9-12. Needless to say, the reorganization involved moving furniture from the closed buildings to the buildings that remained open. Faculty was transferred to schools that remained open." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 21 - '**Forest Hill Elementary** was closed at the end of the 1975-76 school year. However, it closed before the "**reorganization**" which was conducted at the end of the 1979-1980 school year to alleviate problems associated with the declining enrollment of the district. The following schools were closed: **Big Shoal, Cooley, Eastwood, Englewood, Faubion, Golden Oaks** (repurchased from Northland Cathedral in 1995 to house the TAP program and serve as a professional development training center), **Linden East, Oak Ridge, Northgate Junior High**. Northgate was then opened as a community education center for the Northland. **Dagg**, which had been used as an annex to **North Kansas City High**, was closed in 1980.'([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 22 - **New Mark Junior High School** was opened **August 27, 1973**. It was air-conditioned and had some carpeted areas for noise reduction. Its open-area design was intended to support individual and team teaching, and large and small group instruction. The majority of the school was built on one level. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 23 - The building of new schools had significantly decreased by **1973-80**. Only one new school was built during this time period as district enrollment had stopped growing. In 1973 the District's enrollment was 22,018, and by 1980, it had dropped to 17,032 -- **a loss of nearly 5,000 students in seven years**. This dramatic enrollment decline was a nation-wide phenomenon and was caused as the generation of post-war Baby Boomers moved throughout and graduated from the nation's schools. ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 24 - "The second bond was passed on **November 14,1967** for \$6,000,000. Its purpose was to build a new senior high school (Winnetonka), a new elementary school (**West Englewood**), an addition to a junior high school (**Northgate**), and renovations and additions to four elementary schools. The third and final bond was passed on **May 19,1970**. Its purpose was to make additions

to seven elementary schools and a junior high school, build a **new junior high school (New Mark)**, construct a new transportation facility and purchase additional sites for new buildings." ([Share a Memory](#))

DAY 25 - Three **bond issues** passed during **1964-1972**. One bond was passed on **February 2, 1965** for \$2,350,000. Its purpose was to make the elementary facilities more uniform throughout the district, provide additional facilities for one of the junior high schools, continue renovations of **North Kansas City Senior High School**, create a child study clinic and curriculum center, purchase an additional site for expansion, increase the bus transportation facilities and business offices." ([Share a Memory](#))