

Education in Parsons, Kansas Past, Present, and Future

- February 23, 1869 Petition sent to County Superintendent for organization of School District No. 33.
- Aug.2-Nov.2, 1869 School was held in a log house at 23rd & Appleton. Teacher for those three months was Miss Maria Hussy at a rate of \$16.67 per month paid by subscription. Average attendance was 15 with 54 school-age children in the area.
- March 1870 1st annual school district meeting held. Proposal for a new school passed by a vote of 8 to 2. Bonds in the amount of \$1,000 were voted to build a 1-story, two-room frame building at the northwest corner of 21st & Appleton.
- 2nd School Term Held again in log house. Miss Sophronia Emery was the first teacher paid from public funds. Enrollment of 54.
- September 1871 New two-room school opened. Teachers were Miss Emery and Mr. E.H. Taylor (a farmer). The building was later sold for use as a Negro church.

- 1874 A third-ward grade school (Columbia) was erected at 24th & Corning. Approximate cost, \$10,000. Renamed McKinley shortly after the turn of the century. Additions were made in 1890 and in 1912.



Parsons-How It All Began

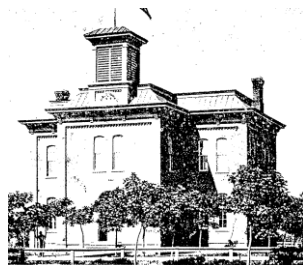
1880



Parsons-How It All Began

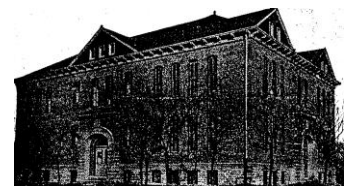
In the first ward, Lincoln School was constructed at a cost of \$8,930.

1884



Parsons-How It All Began

⇐ Washington Grade School was built in the 4th Ward at 26th & Stevens for \$12,000. In 1899 a larger building was erected in the same location for approximately \$10,000. ⇨



Parsons-How It All Began

1889

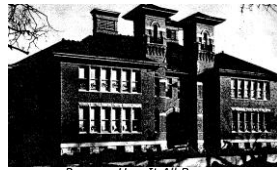
1893

Cost of the first Parsons High School, erected at 26th & Main, was \$30,000. Before this, high school classes were held in the 3rd Ward school which offered a three-year course with one year of post-graduate work. In the early 1900's a full four-year course was offered.



Parsons-How It All Began

1903



Parsons-How It All Began

1st brick school in Parsons was at 17th & Main. Cost, \$18,000. (2nd Ward School) Replaced by New Garfield Grade School built at 14th & Corning. Cost, \$36,000.

1905

Enrollment: 2,524 students; 42 teachers; 5 buildings.

1908

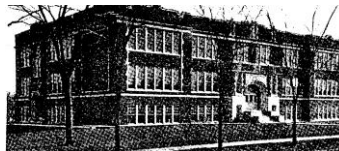
Douglass School was constructed at 822 South Central for Negro students in grades 1-8. Upper grades attended the high school. In 1925, an addition costing \$36,399 included a gymnasium & auditorium.



Enrollment was 250 students when total integration of all students was accomplished in 1956 and Douglass School was closed. The building was torn down in 1958. Before Douglass was the Hobson Normal Institute opened by the Friends in 1882 which operated for about ten years, then closed due to lack of sufficient patronage.

1920

New brick building at 14th & Broadway housed students in grades 7-9. It was divided into East and West. Students west of the tracks attended the old high school at 26th & Main and those east of the tracks attended the new building.



Broadway housed 1926, the junior high West Junior High. Those east of the

1921

Under the superintendency of H.D. Ramsey, the pension plan was inaugurated.

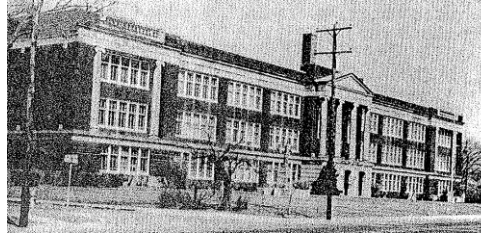
1923



Lincoln, the 1st Ward school, was replaced with this brick structure at a cost of \$89,311. The three-story building included twelve classrooms, and a gymnasium & auditorium at the basement level, the first in any ward building.

1923 The Junior College was inaugurated into the school system and held in the 28th & Main building.

1924-26 A new high school was constructed at 2719 Main. It included an auditorium, gymnasium, library, and shops. Later a football field (95 yards) and added north of the building. Cost was \$531,162. In 1923, during the administration of Rees H. Hughes, the Junior College was inaugurated in this building and the school system was also held in this building.



1927 Kindergartens were started in each of the four wards.

1935



A new McKinley building was erected with twelve classrooms, auditorium, Library, and kitchen. The cost was \$91,315 with a \$26,367 Federal grant.

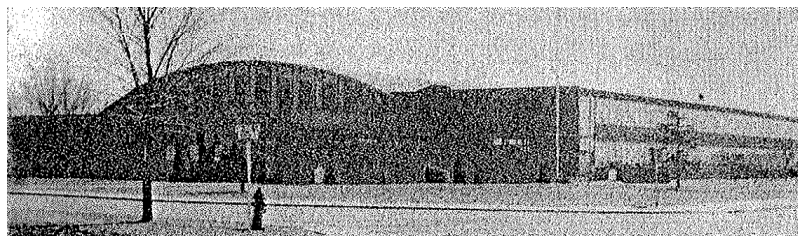
1952

The old Washington building was replaced with a one-story building with twelve classrooms, auditorium, and kitchen. Two more classrooms were added in 1954. Cost of the building was \$374,675.



1953 Teachers began participation in Social Security.

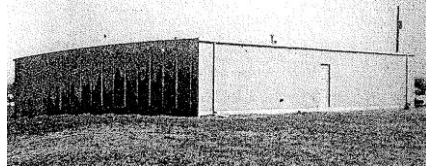
1954 The old West Junior High at 26th & Main was deemed unsafe and bonds were voted for a new building which was completed in December 1954 at a new site, 31st & Morton.



1962

East Junior High and West Junior High were moved to the building at 2719 Main. Parsons High School then moved to the location at 3030 Morton and the Juco moved to the 14th & Broadway location.

1963



To help alleviate crowded conditions, the Southwest Elementary School was erected at the south end of the Senior High School grounds on 31st Street.

- 6-27-1966 Minutes read "The Board of Education, City of Parsons..."
- 7-05-1966 Minutes read "The Board of Education of Unified School District 503..."
- 2-20-1966 Accepted bid of \$1,610.50 for Prairie Valley School & grounds.
- 10-03-1966 The Board approved renaming Southwest Elementary School to the Guthridge Educational Center to show recognition of Wallace H. Guthridge, Superintendent, and long-time teacher & administrator.
- 11-02-1970 Agreement with City of Parsons to transfer by deed the property known as the stadium & football field in Marvel Park for a period of 25 years. After 25 years, title will revert to the City with the provision that the School District may use stadium & football field free of charge on a lease basis for maintaining the facility as described. [Built in Mid 1930's] 730 Main
- 6-05-1972 Facilities for football at Marvel Park are being completed. The PA system, scoreboard control cable, goal posts, yard-markers and flags, and flag poles are being installed for preparation for the coming season. Press box construction has been completed.
- 4-02-1973 Beginning the 1973-74 school year, Parsons District Schools will become a member of the Two-County Special Education Co-op for the purpose of providing for the special education students as well as meeting the 1974 mandate handed down by the state legislature.
- 5-17-1979 Parsons District Schools entered into an agreement with the S.E.K. Regional Educational Service Center to mainstream Parsons State Hospital and Training Center pupils.
- 8-16-1982 The Board voted to close McKinley Grade School at the end of the 1982-83 school year.
- 8-16-1982 The Board of Education authorized the pursuit of implementing a Middle School program effective the 1983-84 school year for grades 6-8.
- 8-16-1982 The Board voted to reorganize the district beginning the 1983-84 school year as Elementary Grades K-5, Middle School Grades 6-8, and High School Grades 9-12.
- 1999-00 Washington Elementary School was closed.
- 2000-01 Middle School classes were conducted at the Washington School building during renovation of the Parsons Middle School.

Additions/Remodels to Parsons High School

1964	Physics/Chemistry Room Annex	4,800 square feet
1968	Classroom Annex (Separate Building)	4,800 square feet
1971	Cafeteria & Additional Classrooms	18,000 square feet
1973	Music Room	4,000 square feet
1973	Auto Mechanics/Printing Shop (Separate Building)	10,000 square feet
1985	Chemistry Room	1,720 square feet
1986	Science Classroom Addition	6,570 square feet
1994	Storage Building	192 square feet
1995	Storage Building	96 square feet
2000	Vocational-Technical Building	12,600 square feet
2000	800 South 29 th (Quitclaim Deed from USDE)	3,157 square feet
2006-08	Original Building Remodel	66,087 square feet
2006-08	Additional New Construction	49,762 square feet

Additions/Remodels to Parsons Middle School

(Originally built as Sr. High/Juco, PJHS in _____, PMS in 1983)

1982	Rees Hughes Activity Center	5,500 square feet
1995	Storage Building	96 square feet
2000-01	Middle School Housed at Washington Building	
2000	Renovation Project	102,600 square feet

Additions/Remodels to Garfield Elementary School

1954	Construction of New Building (same location 300 S. 14 th)	29,000 square feet
1966	Library	1,000 square feet
1995	Storage Building	96 square feet
1997	Classroom Addition	1,862 square feet
2006	Renovation & New Additions [Saferoom Included]	3,218 square feet

Additions/Remodels to Guthridge Elementary School

1971	Major Construction Enlargement (at 1020 S. 31 st)	26,000 square feet
1995	Storage Building	96 square feet
1997	Classroom Addition	3,518 square feet
2003	Saferoom Addition (FEMA Grant)	2,436 square feet
2006	Renovation & New Additions	2,881 square feet

Additions/Remodels to Lincoln Elementary School

1971	Construction of New Building (Old Building Faced Stevens – New Building Faces 18 th)	29,000 square feet
1996	Music Annex (Portable Classroom)	960 square feet
1995	Storage Building	96 square feet
1997	Classroom Addition	4,812 square feet
2006	Renovation & New Additions [2 Saferooms Included]	4,232 square feet

2010-11	Elementary K-5 Neighborhood Schools were Restructured as Grade Level Attendance Centers (Guthridge – Grades 4 & 5) (Garfield – Grades 2 & 3) (Lincoln – Grades PreK, K, & 1)	
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1/19/2016

District-Wide Energy Improvements

The Board passed a resolution authorizing the district to enter into an energy performance contract and a lease purchase transaction, the proceeds of which will be used to pay the costs of acquiring, constructing, and installing water, lighting, HVAC and roofing improvements for the district and obtaining savings from these energy conservation measures.

District Enrollment Parsons Census

1965	2,385	13,041
1970	2,655	13,015
1975	2,543	13,563
1980	2,194	12,870
1985	2,123	12,870
1990	1,930	11,924
1995	1,936	11,657
2000	1,719	11,514
2005	1,529	11,212
2010	1,331	10,500
2015	1,324	10,500

Superintendent of Schools

1867	J. H. Griffith, Principal
1873	Mr. Parkhurst
1876-77	Mr. B. F. Hickey, Superintendent & Principal Teacher
July 18, 1877 to August 14, 1877	Mr. George Thornton
August 14, 1877 to 1880	Mr. M. Chidester
1880-1881	Mr. O. M. McPherson
1881-1888	Mr. Lee Tomlin
1888-1891	Mr. C. H. Harris
May 11, 1891	Mr. H. C. Ford
...	Minutes only reference "superintendent" - no names
1921	Mr. H. D. Ramsey
1926 to June 25, 1941	Mr. Rees H. Hughes
August 1, 1941 to 1967	Mr. Wallace H. Guthridge
April 3, 1967 to June 15, 1967	Mr. W. W. Beck, Acting Superintendent
July 10, 1967 to Sept. 3, 1968	Dr. M. L. Winters
Sept. 3, 1968 to May 31, 1972	Mr. Henry T. Norris
June 5, 1972	Mr. C. G. Reitemeier, Acting Superintendent
June 19, 1972 to July 1, 1975	Mr. C. G. Reitemeier
July 7, 1975 to May 1, 1981	Dr. S. J. Alioto
May 4, 1981 to June 8, 1981	Mr. Lewis Hevel, Acting Superintendent
June 25, 1981 to June, 1991	Mr. Willis Heck
July 1, 1991 to July 1, 1998	Dr. John Hetlinger
July 6, 1998 to June, 2002	Mr. John Benson
July 9, 2002 to June 30, 2010	Dr. Deborah Perbeck
July 6, 2010 to June, 2013	Mrs. Linda Proehl
July 2, 2013 to ...	Dr. Shelly Martin