



History of Northwest Community Schools

On June 29, 1954, the community members in sixteen small school districts voted to consolidate and became Northwest Agricultural District.

When the 1954-1955 school years began, 875 students in grades 1st through 8th attended the **Woodworth School** on Murphy Drive and the rural country schools. (*Woodworth was the most modern building with six classrooms in the district.*) High School students attended Leslie, Springport, and Jackson High Schools.

In the fall of 1956, **Northwest Junior-Senior High School (R.W. Kidder Middle School)** opened on Rives Junction Road. Freshmen students began attending. Our first senior class had 81 students and graduated in the spring of 1960.

Flora List Elementary School opened in the fall of 1960. It originally housed kindergartners through sixth grade students. **Central Office** also opened in 1960. Our superintendent, accounting personnel, and human resources office work out of that building.

We officially changed our name in 1960 to Northwest School District.

The district continued to grow. **Parnall Elementary School** opened in 1963. It housed kindergartners through sixth grade students.

In 1965, the **Henrietta School District** consolidated with Northwest. Their elementary building continued to serve their younger students.

Additional classrooms had been added to **Northwest Junior-Senior High School**. However, more room was needed as the district was getting bigger and bigger. To quote the movie Field of Dreams, “build it and they will come” was definitely happening here. Enrollment was at 3,404 in 1965.

In 1967, **Northwest High School** opened with 627 sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

In 1971, there were 4,171 students. Six and seventh grades were overloaded. So, the plans for **Northwest Middle School (Northwest Elementary School)** were developed. It opened in January 1972 the same day Woodworth School closed.

Construction to update the football stadium began in 1980. The new bleachers could seat 2,800 Mountie fans. The visitor's bleachers were added the following year for 1,400 people.

The district faced some huge challenges in the eighties. Factories in Jackson were closing and Northwest definitely felt the impact. And grade levels and buildings were realigned. Pleasant Lake Elementary and Flora List elementary were closed in the fall of 1982.

Flora List reopened the following year housing kindergarteners, first graders Adult/Alternative education students, community education, and child-care. Pleasant Lake was converted to a community center.

In 1997, the alternative education students moved from Flora list to a six room modular unit at the east end of the high school to what is now called Northwest **Alternative High School**.

Our district includes over seven townships and one city street. We really do not have a center for our community. Over the years, we have realized that without the schools being in a small town or large city, Northwest is the centralized meeting area for our residents. With that being said, we became Northwest Community Schools in 2000.

Over the summer of 2009, **Flora List Elementary** school was closed and all students and programs were moved to **Parnall Elementary**. Third grade was moved **to Northwest Elementary School**.

Now, this is where we are today.....

We currently have an enrollment of 2,800 students. Our grade levels are listed below:

- Parnall Elementary – Preschool through 2nd
- Northwest Elementary – 3rd through 5th
- Kidder Middle School – 6th through 8th
- Northwest High School – 9th through 12th
- Northwest Alternative High School – 10th through 12th

Over the years, Northwest has maintained its facilities extremely well keeping our locations functioning for students. Roofs and floors have been repaired or replaced. Painting has been done when needed. Through the technology enhancement bond we have been able to upgrade some electrical and lighting. Overall, the district has done a good job of taking care of its facilities.

We are facing the same issues that you face with your home. Driveways are falling apart. Major plumbing issues are developing. Doors and locks are worn out. Our furnaces are outdated and inadequate. The needs of our students to be ready for college have changed. Furniture is falling apart. These are just a few of the issues we are facing. You can review the entire facilities assessment at [INSERT LINK](#).

One of the goals of Northwest Community Schools Operations Department is to restore our facilities back to the shape our buildings were in during the 1970's and the early 1980's. We want to insure our students have every opportunity to learn and be ready for college and for jobs not only in Jackson County but around the world. The only way this can be achieved is by working together as a community and develop a long term plan that will meet the challenges our students are facing.

We want your input and your help.

- Take our survey at [INSERT LINK](#).
- Give us your concerns
- Ask us your questions
- Help us develop a solution that works for both our students and our community

We can be found on Facebook, Twitter, or email us at facilityinfo@nwschools.org.