

EASTERN

H I G H S C H O O L

As good as gold



50th Anniversary

1950-2000



Welcome,

I'm sure many of you are wondering where the time has gone. It seems like only yesterday that you were at the Homecoming football game, in math class or receiving your diploma at graduation. High school is a fascinating time in everyone's life. It may have been where you met your spouse, the first step to a successful career or just a great four years of your life. Eastern High School has a long rich history, and it has been the backbone of the Middletown and surrounding community for 50 years. Eastern's relationship with its alumni has always been a special one. Many of you have sent your children to Eastern, which is a reflection of the quality of the education you had and want for your sons / daughters.

Today, Eastern High School continues its success. Its diverse student population gets a first class education in a safe environment. In addition, students are receiving training for the jobs of the future. As *the* school of technology, we have 13 computer labs, over seventy percent of our students are in a technology class every day and we teach classes ranging from Microsoft Certification to programming to web page design. As a matter of fact, this yearbook is a product of that technology. It was created 100% digitally.

I would like to thank Ken Moeller, Steve Johnson and students for this Golden Anniversary yearbook. It was a huge undertaking. This book reflects the unique history of the building and community, the lives of the students that have been in our classes and halls for half of a century and the memorable sporting events that make up our collective history.

On behalf of the yearbook staff, I would like to thank you for purchasing this yearbook. All of its proceeds will go toward improving technology at Eastern High School. I hope you enjoy it.

Sincerely,

James A. Sexton
Principal, Eastern High School



EASTERN

We, the 1999-00 Eastern Yearbook Staff, would like to thank you for purchasing this *Alumni Yearbook*. It was created in honor of Eastern's 50th Anniversary.

We have invested tremendous time and effort in producing this book—researching specific events and people throughout the decades, selecting pictures to adequately represent the history of Eastern and working to embody the spirit of the school.

We sorted through hundreds of letters, e-mails and newspaper articles, paged through every old yearbook, and conducted countless telephone and personal interviews with alumni. Over a twelve week period, thirty students labored approximately 1,400 hours attempting to convey the essence of Eastern High School.

Many basic observations have been made during the research of the Alumni Yearbook; we have discovered simple truths about people living in the last fifty years. Looking past the changes in fashion, music, cars and hangouts, students are fundamentally the same at heart. A general description will fit any student that has walked the hallowed halls of Eastern—every teenager throughout time has been fun-loving, enthusiastic, energetic, mischievous,



Parking lot during football game - 1999



Parking lot during football game - 1959

misunderstood and plagued by the pressures of everyday life. The years have changed the world, but have yet to alter the spirits of the youth.

This yearbook is divided into eight sections to organize the most memorable aspects of the school. The sections—Community, Faculty, Eagle Pride, Changing Times, Alumni Spotlight, Lifestyles, Clubs, Events and Sports—were chosen to display the reach of Eastern's impact on the community and the years. We only regret that we could not include every portion of recorded history within the confines of thirty-two pages.

There are 13,000 graduates with 13,000 different stories, only a small percentage of which we could detail. We apologize to those whose stories are not told and for any errors we may have made and hope that the experiences of others at least reflect a portion of the pride that you feel for your alma mater. Enjoy.



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The growth of Eastern, Middletown and nearby neighborhoods.

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1950



1949- 7th and 8th graders begin classes in the huts



Oct. 26: School is dedicated. Jack Dawson is first principal



Gene Murphy first football touchdown

1951



PTA selects school colors



May 22: First class to graduate



Carol Wesising sings "High Valentines" on WHAS-TV



Don Cooke Elected President of KY/Ind Beta Club



Football wins Cumberland Lake Bowl



First Vice-Versa Wedding

Construction starts in 1948

September 4, 1950: First day of school

First Valentine Dance and Contest

May 23: Jr. & Sr. Prom together at the Seelbach

Blueprint changes name to *The Talon*

Football wins county championship

Doubles state tennis champs

First football trophy won by Eastern High School



EASTERN



Main Street in 1957

In 1948, ideas of Eastern's development began to emerge. Seventh- and eighth-graders from the Middletown community were given the opportunity to become Eastern High School students their ninth-grade year. Prior to the construction of Eastern, quonset huts were built as classrooms for these seventh- and eighth-graders. These students would make up a portion of the student body when the new school opened.

Anchorage and Jeffersontown High Schools closed in the summer of 1950. Students from these two schools, the huts and the surrounding community were given a new opportunity—Eastern High School. In Miss Wood's classes alone 14 different schools were represented in the first year.

Middletown

In 1797, a landowner by the name of Philip Buckner petitioned the Jefferson County court for permission to establish a town along Beargrass Creek. Buckner's land was divided and sold as "Middletown," named so because it was the midpoint between Louisville and Shelbyville. Today, Main Street—the heart of Middletown—and Shelbyville Road are lined with log, brick and stone houses built by some of Middletown's earliest settlers.

One of Louisville's founders, Richard Chenoweth, built a small springhouse one mile north of what is now U.S. 60. This springhouse was attacked by a tribe of Indians in the year 1789 and now is thought to be the

oldest structure in Jefferson County.

Built with logs around 1800, The Middletown Inn was known for its famous cheese made in the basement of the building. Well-known guests include Henry Clay, John C. Breckinridge and the Marquis de Lafayette. An addition was added to the building in 1804, made of brick and with a stairway of fifteen steps, to commemorate Kentucky as the fifteenth state of the Union. The Inn was operated until 1920.

Middletown remained a very small and rural town until about twenty years ago. Major development began rapidly spreading east from Louisville.

In the past ten years, major changes have occurred in the area. Bigg's Hypermarket—Louisville's largest grocery store—has come and gone. Middletown has also been under construction lately due to the completion of the Watterson Trail Shelbyville Road intersection.

New improvements have been

made to old historic buildings to preserve their life.

Many people favor the commercial growth of Middletown, although others want it slowed down. In fact, in the early 1930's, a major town controversy arose regarding U.S. 60. Many townspeople argued that if it was built on Main Street, the new road would destroy Middletown's heritage. The state finally decided to build U.S. 60 around Middletown to the north instead of along Main Street. This was done so that the old buildings on Main Street along with Old Shelbyville Road were saved from the bulldozer.

New signs, doors and even parts of the building have been added. No longer does the Middletown Apothecary and Mrs. Wheeler's Dry Goods Store exist, but new additions such as Mr. Horan's Computer Lab and the brand new Winn Dixie have changed the picture of Middletown.



Main Street in 2000



Berrytown & Griffytown

Berrytown and Griffytown are neighborhoods composed of a majority of African-Americans. Berrytown and Griffytown are near Anchorage, but their living conditions have always been far less glamorous. Only in the past 30 years have the roads of Berrytown and Griffytown been paved.

Citizens of Berrytown and Griffytown established their neighborhoods before the

Civil War to aid citizens of Anchorage. These communities survived before the World War II by supplying cooks, butlers, maids, drivers and gardeners for Anchorage families.

After the war these neighborhoods developed and broke away from Anchorage. They worked for better living conditions and have developed into stronger communities of their own. Today Berrytown and Griffytown are successful neighborhoods embraced by the Eastern community.



of summer homes for wealthy Louisvillians. The charm of Anchorage is its survival of so many of the big homes built by its original settlers. The luxurious homes and enormous trees have elegantly withstood the years, and they are still lining the horizon.

Jeffersontown

Jeffersontown High School closed down in 1950. The students who attended Jeffersontown came to Eastern. The current Jeffersontown High School was built in 1967 because of movement east and the baby boomers' coming of age.

One of Kentucky's fastest growing cities, the Jeffersontown region was once dominated by buffalo that lured settlers to the area in the mid-1700s. By 1790 settlers arrived to the area from Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland to purchase the land, build log cabins, start plantations and open businesses.

During the 1800's Jeffersontown was a thriving agricultural area with fertile soil. The 1950's brought rapid population growth due to the opening of General Electric's Appliance Park. In the 1960's, Jeffersontown continued to grow, and by 1970 the population had reached 9,700. Jeffersontown's current population is 24,700, making it the second largest city in Jefferson County.



Anchorage

Anchorage Public School contained grades kindergarten through twelve. However, the school was closed for ninth through twelfth graders in 1950, sending Anchorage High School students to Eastern for their high

school education.

Anchorage was first named Hobb's Station, after the communities first train depot. The train depot was established by Edward Hobbs, the President of the Louisville to Frankfort Short Line Railroad in 1844.

Anchorage received its current name from James Goslee. Goslee brought an anchor with him and set it in his front lawn. He declared that he had found his final anchorage, and the name was officially adopted for the village. The railroads that were built in the mid-1800s are still a reminder of Anchorage's past.

Between 1880 and 1900, Anchorage became a favorite site

Jefferson County

As a result of desegregation and busing in 1975, Eastern expanded its boundaries to a satellite community downtown. Students from downtown Louisville are transported to Eastern, the majority being students from Western Middle School.

Today 400 of Eastern's students come from places other than Eastern's school district and Eastern's satellite community. These students have chosen to attend Eastern and not the high school of the district in which they live.

The neighborhoods surrounding Eastern have grown and developed into stronger communities. These communities have changed over time; however, they are still a reminder of a part of the community's past. Eastern students come from different parts of the community, not only from Middletown. Eastern introduced diversity for the children from Berrytown, Griffytown and downtown. Eastern has attracted students from neighboring communities, from it's satellite community, and students from other school districts. The diversity of Eastern is still apparent today and essential to its success.

1953															
	First Square Dance	First Carnival thrown at EHS	John Swick wins voice of Democracy Concert	First Peppermint Ball	Gary Howard finalist in U.S. Schools Exam	Eastern wins county championships for ALL sports	Ned Beatty serves as Jr. Class Sgt. @ Arms	Ellin Holt receives DAR award	Jr. snack bar opens	Basketball wins second county championship in a row	Nov. 29, 1955: Shelbyville Plaza opens	Boys golf state champions	Virginia Caswell wins DAR award	Anchorage phones go to dial system	Louis Roos named scoring champ in football

C COMMUNITY

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The land on which Eastern was built was originally owned by John Hundley. After service in the Revolutionary War, Hundley was rewarded 1,000 acres of land in Jefferson County. In 1791 Hundley sold 600 acres to George Wilson, a big property owner of Louisville, and John Mitchell from Allegheny County, Maryland. They held the land until 1803 when Joseph Abell purchased the 1,000 acres for \$1,100.

The land would go through three more owners until it was purchased by Everett W. Bedinger in 1878. The land stayed in the Bedinger family until 1940 when Lee Jones bought 15.2 acres. Then in 1944 Hervey S. Caton purchased 120 acres from the Bedinger family.

On December 10th 1948, the Jefferson County Board of Education bought 41.14 acres of land from Hervey S. Caton. Three days later the Jefferson County Board of Education bought 15.2 acres of land from Lee Jones. The school was built on a 56.61 acre plot at a cost of \$44,250.00. Six steel quonset huts were built



1st floor of the west wing during construction

on this former turkey farmland. The huts were temporary classrooms to take care of 7th and 8th grade students while the main building was finishing its construction.

The county architect, Fred Harstern, drew up plans for the new junior-senior high school. The building would be a fireproof, three-story structure, with all exterior walls made of architectural concrete, floors of reinforced concrete and interior partitions of glazed and facing tile. All concrete floors are covered with asphalt tile or ceramic tile, and all ceilings are covered with incombustible acoustical tile.



The south wall of the auditorium being built

The building originally contained twenty-six general purpose classrooms to accommodate 1,500 students. The school contained twenty-four special rooms for such classes as domestic science, chemistry, physics, biology, shorthand, typewriting, bookkeeping, mechanical drawing, art and visual aid. The building also contained a large cafeteria, a small auditorium and a spacious library, which was open to the community at that time.

The overall cost of the buildings, equipment, site improvements, sewage disposal plant and outside utilities came to the price of \$1,675,000. Construction of the school was completed in 1950. The building was opened in 1950 and dedicated on October 28th of that year.

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The 2nd floor of the west wing during construction



The original front of the main building in 1950

In the past 50 years the Eastern building has evolved from its original construction. Eastern went through different additions, renovations and destructions. Its size has grown from 66 classrooms to 88 classrooms. The number of sports areas has grown from 4 to 8. The overall school capacity grew from 1,500 students to 2,000 students.

After the completion of the building, the quonset huts were used for classes such as wood shop, metal shop and even an auto repair shop. The music rooms and band rooms were also in the quonset huts. At one point special education students were taught in the huts.

The first addition made to Eastern was a new lighted football field in the fall of 1954 at a cost of \$22,000, giving Eastern the second-best lighted football field in the state at that time.

The basement was appended in 1957. Locker rooms were constructed in 1959, at a cost of \$92,000, that were connected to the large gymnasium once it made its debut in 1961. The large gym was built at a cost of \$217,000. The 120 foot by 120 foot gym was made of concrete, brick and steel, and it has a seating capacity of 2,900 people.

In the 1960's Eastern had a television classroom where 8

televisions were set up to teach a room full of 150 students. Eastern offered this class until the late 1960's. Once the class was canceled the room became the auditorium with the capacity of 250 people was used for plays and special events.

1974 was a big year in the changes made to Eastern's building. The wings of the school, the main office and library were constructed to accentuate the "E" of the main building. The original library, which was dedicated to Edith K. Wood, was moved to the front section of the building next to the main office. The old library is now used as student services center, which contains counseling, attendance and recordkeeping. The small gymnasium, classrooms and JROTC rifle range were built next to the large gym. In the first attempt to build the small gym, the south wall collapsed in a storm. All but one of the quonset huts were removed. The remaining hut is currently being used as a batting cage for the baseball team in the winter time.

In 1985 the new baseball field was constructed. The demand for more parking spaces was needed so the lower parking lot was added in 1986. The old baseball field was renovated in 1995 into a softball field. The most recent addition was the soccer field, which was completed in 1999.











Eastern is also proud of the amount of computer rooms it has to offer. All

students have the chance to not only learn about computers but also to learn the many facets of technology. The building today contains thirteen computer rooms which are always in use by Computer Arts and Science classes and all content areas. Thanks to these computer rooms, Eastern is considered a premiere school for teaching students computer skills which they can use in their future life.

Eastern has managed to not only grow as a building but also as a school. The building growth can be considered a symbol for the life of the school, over all the tough years, Eastern has a bigger "E" than ever.



A look at the quonset huts when used as classrooms

1956				1957				1958			1959				
	Boy's basketball state runner-up	Principal Trapp's First Day	Four EHS students make a missile for science club		Gary Hayward wins National Science Talent Search	Marching Eagles elected to march in Washington DC	Betty Kaelin made entire horse out of paper mache		Eastern's football wins county championship	Steve Simpson places 2nd in state track meet		Eastern Cheerleading Squad earns Highest Ranking in BandFest	Basketball wins county championship	Robert E. Ring creates a solar cooker for Eastern High School Science Club	Former Spanish teacher, Mrs. Helen Daniel, is appointed Language Supervisor for the state