

Celebrating 60 years



This year, the North Allegheny School District is celebrating its 60th anniversary. The District is proud of the tradition of educational excellence that has been its hallmark, as well as the thousands of NA alumni who have built lives for themselves and their families across the nation on the foundation of the outstanding education they received at NA.

Today, more than 8,000 students attend the District in grades K-12 and a total of 1,080 employees work together every day to create the best possible learning opportunities for those students. The NA community is a thriving suburban population that offers tremendous support and expects accountability from its schools, which explains why the North Allegheny School District continues to flourish as it does.

It is difficult to image that this northern area of Allegheny County was only beginning to be settled and township governments were only starting to be formed in the mid-to late- 19th century. About 150 years ago, the first school was built in McCandless Township in a log cabin, at a time when the area was predominantly a farming community. Growth was so rapid that it was less than 90 years later – in 1948 – that the North Allegheny School District was born out of a vision of collaboration among municipalities with their own small school districts that would “furnish the best possible educational opportunities for the school children.” This was a very forward-thinking and carefully planned concept that has managed to sustain the North Allegheny School District as it has become one of the best school districts in the nation in sixty years’ time.

- 1860** The first school in McCandless Township was a log cabin built on land owned by the Peebles family.
- 1910** Ingomar School was built on the site where it is currently situated.
- 1916** A one-room school was built in Bradford Woods.
- 1928** Espe School was built.
- 1936** A six-room, brick school was built in Franklin Township.
- 1945** McCandless bought the Cole Farm (150 acres) for \$30,000. (Today this is the NA Cumberland Campus where three schools, the Central Administrative Offices, the Transportation and Facilities building and the Northland Public Library are located.)
- 1948** **Five school districts – Bradford Woods, Franklin, Marshall, McCandless, and Pine – signed a ten year agreement to operate as North Allegheny Joint Schools.**
- 1950** Pine Township withdrew from the Joint School agreement.
- 1952** March 22 – Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the construction of the NA Junior-Senior High School on the Cole Farm site. (This building is currently called NAI.)
- 1954** October 24 – Guest speaker Jonas Salk spoke at the dedication of the new Junior-Senior High School. The school had 33 rooms for grades 7 – 12.
- 1956** June – The first graduating class of nearly 160 seniors received their diplomas.
- 1958** Ingomar Junior High School opened for grades 7 – 9.
- 1960** Ingomar Elementary was rebuilt after a devastating fire destroyed the old frame portion of building. Twelve classrooms were included.
- 1969** Carson Intermediate High School for grades 9 and 10 was built on the Cole Farm site with 47 rooms.
- 1972** Bradford Woods Elementary was expanded to 18 rooms. Hosack Elementary was built with 18 rooms.
- 1974** September – NA Senior High School (NASH) was opened as a 67-room school for grades 11 and 12. The High School on the Cumberland Campus was dedicated to grades 9 – 10. Carson Intermediate and Ingomar Junior High became middle schools for grades 6 – 8.
- 1987** Facility acquired from Northern Area Special Purpose Schools to create McKnight Elementary School.
- 1991** Bradford Woods Elementary was renovated and expanded to 21 classrooms.
- 1992** Marshall Elementary School was built on the Shenot Farm site with 50 classrooms.
- 1993** Marshall Middle School was built on the Shenot Farm site with 63 classrooms.
- 1999** Franklin, Hosack, Ingomar, McKnight, and Peebles Elementary Schools were fully renovated.
- 2002** The Baierl Community Center opened on the NASH campus.
- 2005** Carson and Ingomar Middle Schools were renovated and expanded.
- 2006** *Expansion Management Magazine* awarded NASD the first of three consecutive Gold Medals for Excellence, ranking the District among the top 3% of all school districts in the nation.
- 2007** NASD implemented a new Strategic Plan for 2007-2013. In addition, the District was nominated to represent the state of Pennsylvania in the Kennedy Center Alliance for the Arts Education/National School Boards Association’s Award Program for its outstanding commitment to arts in education.
- 2008** NASD received its 17th consecutive School Match “What Parents Want” Award. Only 16% of the nation’s 15,571 public school districts have been recognized with this award for meeting the needs of families choosing schools. *Newsweek* and *U.S. News & World Report* ranked NASH among the nation’s best high schools.



Ingomar Elementary School, 1913 and 2009