

Flash Back

Some people may know that Sycamore High School opened in 1974. It was initially built to be an open concept school where students would learn together. Some know that walls have been added to prevent the amount of noise caused by the open concept. But, does anyone know that the first graduating class of the joint Blue Ash-Montgomery High only had two people?

When Sycamore High School opened for its first classes in 1919, using the Blue Ash Elementary's extra rooms located on the corner of Cooper and Kenwood, there were 15 freshmen and one teacher. Since then Blue Ash has been torn down and a small shopping center has replaced it. The high school teacher taught algebra, English, Latin, and general science. The following year came and the small auditorium in the building was then used for the sophomore class. Another room was needed in 1921 for the junior class, so a one room annex was built near the other building. The annex also served the next year for the seniors. The principal from 1920 to 1926 was Cora M. Hawley.

The first actual high school built on Cooper Rd., was opened in 1926. This building contained

nine classrooms and four teachers until 1941 when five rooms, a study hall, and a library were added. The high school became Sycamore Junior High in 1974 when the new high school was completely built.

In 1926 the students and teachers presented an operetta called, "The Love Pirates of Hawaii" dedicated to the opening of the new high school. The first LOG, published in 1927, was produced by the teachers. That year there were seven seniors and a total of 63 students. Some of the activities to participate in included a boys' baseball team, Nunc et Tunc Club, and a Sycamore High Glee Club.

The townships of Blue Ash and Montgomery have changed drastically within the past 70 years. They went from being a rural farming area to a large business oriented city. Sycamore High School in itself has grown to be one of the best schools around. Sycamore now has an enrollment of 1699 students. This includes 433 freshmen, 414 sophomores, 402 juniors, and 450 seniors.

By Rebecca Scott

Mary Lou Rose, former editor of the *Sycamore Messenger*, also contributed to the story.



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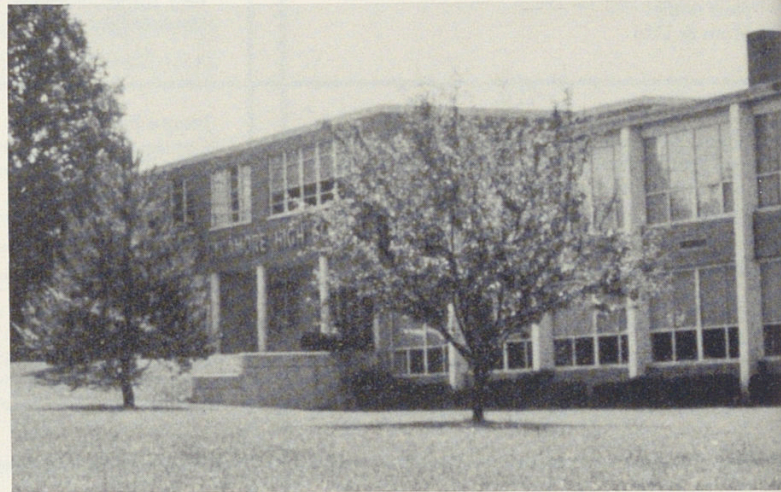
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The present high school on Cornell Road was built in 1974.

This picture of Sycamore High School was taken in 1972 before it became the junior high.



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