

The Names of Hartford's Public Schools and other historical notes

For

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Elementary

Annie Fisher School
280 Plainfield Street
Hartford, CT 06112
860-695-3500

Mascot: Tigers

Miss Annie Fisher was Hartford's first female principal and its first female district superintendent. Born in Russia she came to Hartford as a child. She graduated from Hartford Public High School in 1900 and Wesleyan University in 1904. She also studied at the Hartford Theological Seminary, Columbia University, schools in Europe and received her master's degree from New York University. Her first job in Hartford was as the librarian at the Hartford Public High School. In 1905 she became the head of the foreign department at the Henry Barnard School. She started Hartford's first special classes for foreign-born students and wrote two text books for teaching English to foreign-born students: "English for Beginners" and "Learning English". She also pioneered in helping retarded children. In 1912 she became the head of a special child study development programs for retarded and academically slow children.

In 1923 she was named the district superintendent of schools. When the school districts were consolidated in 1934, Annie Fisher became the principal of the Barnard School. She was elected the president of the Principals Association for four consecutive terms, and was active in the campaigns of equal pay for women teachers, pensions and a regular salary schedule. In 1945 she retired. Commentating on her retirement, Superintendent Fred D. Wish, Jr. noted: "she has been a mighty influence in the lives of thousands of people. No matter how large a school was, she knew her individuals and was always the friendly counselor to them."

In 1965 The Hartford Courant published a profile piece on Miss Fisher. It noted that she was "the only teacher in her school with a college degree. Very few elementary school teachers in the city had more than normal school or two-year degrees. Miss Fisher's innovations started immediately. When she saw the first-grade room filled with children from 6 to 16, 'towering boys sitting next to little ones' all trying to learn English together from one teacher, she asked for the principal's permission to make different arrangements. I tested them in arithmetic to find out the general level of their education.' I then 'placed them in regular classes for part of the day to speed their adjustment. After all you learn a language best when you hear it spoken.'" "One of her more popular innovations, especially among the children, was showers. Up to that time no elementary schools has showers, although the high schools did for their athletic teams. Miss Fisher was concerned because many of the immigrant children could not bathe at home since their families had no bath tubs. The twice a week showers, which are still taken by all elementary school children, today, gave new pride to many of the poor children, she said."

Outside of the school, she was the co-chair of Hartford's War Relief Commission, in both wars, taught missionary groups at the Hartford Seminary Foundation, organized and was the president of the Emanuel Synagogue Sisterhood and organized and was the president of the Young Women's Hebrew Association.

Annie Fisher died on December 24, 1968.

On February 18, 1965 the Board of Education unanimously approved, in principle, making the new Annie Fisher School into an experimental laboratory school affiliated with the University of Hartford. In September 1965 the Annie Fisher School opened at 280 Plainfield Street. It was designed by the architectural firm of Russell, Gibson and von-Dohlen, for a voter approved bond issue of \$2.5 million. It was dedicated on April 30, 1966. Albert Freedman, principal of Hartford's Mary Hooker School was the first principal.

Louis W. Batchelder Elementary School

757 New Britain Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

860-695-2720

Mascot: Wildcats

Mr. Louis W. Batchelder was born in Vermont and received his degree in engineering from the University of Vermont in 1914. In 1939 he received an M.A. degree in education from the same university. In 1917 he came to Hartford to teach in the old South School. A year later he was asked to superintend the southwest district school (now the Kennelly School). He was one of the last of Hartford's district superintendents to remain active as a principal. Mr. Batchelder retired in 1956.

When the Batchelder School opened on New Britain Avenue in 1958, a large number of students were transferred from the Kennelly School where Mr. Batchelder had been the principal. The newspapers reported that on opening day of the new school that was named in his honor, as he welcomed the students, a first grader tugged at his sleeve and asked: "Aren't you the man who's named after the school?"

Mr. Batchelder died on October 22, 1958 at his home at 87 Cumberland Street in Hartford. He is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Dr. Betances was a Puerto Rican nationalist, instigator of the Grito de Lares revolution and is considered the father of the Puerto Rican independence movement. Betances was a renowned medical doctor, surgeon, early social hygienist as well as a public health administrator, diplomat, poet and novelist.

Over the main door in 1988 was placed a bronze bas relief sculpture of Dr. Betances by Juan Luis Andreu. Measuring approximately 3.5 feet by 7 feet 3 inches (it has a semi-elliptical top) it was dedicated on November 19, 1988, Puerto Rico Discovery Day. The plaque in the school vestibule reads:

Dr. Ramon Emerterio Betances Bronze Relief
Presented To
The Hartford Board of Education
Betances School
By
La Casa de Puerto Rico
November 19, 1988
Created By
Juan Luis Andreu

This is reportedly the first piece of public art in Connecticut to honor a Puerto Rican. The sculpture is signed and dated by the artist in the lower left corner of the work.

The semi-elliptical bas-relief depicts Dr. Betances and objects relating to his life and to Puerto Rican history. The figure of Dr. Betances is a bust with full, wavy hair and a moustache with a long beard. He wears a suit coat. There is a chair running horizontally at the bottom of the piece, to symbolize Dr. Betances's opposition to slavery. A Puerto Rican flag flies behind him. To the left there is a caduceus and to the right a section of El Morro Castle in San Juan.

The work was commissioned by La Casa de Puerto Rico for approximately \$44,000.

The building was built in 1925 as the Richard J. Kinsella School, designed by Whiton and McMahon of Hartford. On November 7, 1985 it was renamed the Betances School in honor of Ramon Emerterio Betances y Alacan (1827-1898).

Dominick F. Burns Latino Studies Academy

195 Putnam Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-695-2980

Mascot: Eagles

Dominick F. Burns was born in Stoketown, Roscommon County, Ireland on August 7, 1857. At the age of 12 he came with his brother William and settled in Hartford. His first job was at Truman Cowles's store at 84 Main Street in the meat business. In 1877 he went to work for J.P. Newton, a meat store at 341 Asylum Street. On January 1, 1881 he formed a partnership with T.P. Cannon under the name of Cannon & Burns and opened a grocery and meat business at 304 Park Street. He later bought out Mr. Cannon and in 1903 built the building at the corner of Park and Lawrence streets where he established his grocery store under the name of D.F. Burns Company. His business continued to grow and had over 25 employees. The Hartford County Retail Grocers' Association in 1935 honored Mr. Burns as the dean of Connecticut grocers.

Mr. Burns was one of the founders and the first president of the Park Street Trust Company, a trustee of St. Joseph's Cathedral, director of St. Francis hospital and a member of the Knights of Columbus. In January of 1939 Pope Pius XI conferred upon Mr. Burns the Order of St. Gregory the Great. Mr. Burns was well known for his generosity in the Park Street neighborhood and was deeply interested in Mitchell House.

Dominic F. Burns died on February 27, 1940 at his home at 530 Prospect Avenue in Hartford.

The new Lawrence Street School, designed by Carl J. Malmfeldt, was built in 1938-1940. After Mr. Burns' death it was decided to rename the school in his honor.

Alfred Edmund Burr was born in Hartford on March 27, 1815. His ancestors had come to Hartford in 1635 with the earliest settlers. The Burr family was allotted some six acres of land “on the north side of the road to the cow pasture”. Burr Street was the early name for the portion of Main Street north of Talcott Street. In 1827 at the age of 12 Alfred E. Burr became an apprentice in *The Hartford Courant*’s composing room to learn the printer’s trade. At 20 he was made the foreman of the room, and at 24 he was offered partial ownership in the paper. According to contemporary sources, the “conditions at the paper were such that he declined the offer.”

The Hartford Weekly Times was first published on January 1, 1817 by Frederick D. Bolles a printer and James M. Niles a lawyer from Poquonock. According to the Times’ history, they dedicated the paper to forcing the state of Connecticut to have a new constitution, one that would “guarantee civic and religious freedom.” Connecticut was still operating under the Colonial charter which required all people to pay taxes to support the Congregational church.” The result was that in 1818 Connecticut ratified a new constitution, one that removed the Congregational Church as the state church. *The Hartford Times* became the “peoples’ newspaper. Niles served as a Senator (1835-1839; 1843-1849) and was postmaster general under President Van Buren. In 1838 the paper was owned by Judge Henry A. Mitchell of Bristol. That year Burr met with Judge Mitchell and offered to purchase half ownership in the paper. One of the paper’s editorial writers, Gideon Welles was in the office when the offer was made. After Burr left, Welles encouraged Mitchell to accept the offer. On January 1, 1839 Burr became manager and half owner of *The Hartford Times*. In 1841 Burr bought the rest of Mitchell’s interest in the paper.

The Hartford Times in 1839 was a weekly newspaper. Burr was the manager, editor, foreman and bookkeeper. On March 2, 1841 Burr changed the paper from a weekly to a daily morning paper. Before the year was out, he made the Times an evening paper. The circulation rose from 400 to over 2,000 papers within the year.

Mr. Burr was closely connected with the Democratic Party in the state. For many years any democratic position or legislation was said to have been partially or wholly written by him, and that no legislation was passed which he had not read and approved. His obituary noted: “He made his paper democratic, steadfast and rock bound, and for nearly forty-five years nearly everything relating to politics, national and state, came from his hand. He opposed the movement to repeal the Missouri Compromise . . . and his paper stood with the supporters of Breckenridge and the South against Stephen A. Douglas and the doctrine of squatter sovereignty. He believed that the war which broke out in 1861 had been needlessly forced upon the country and that it might have been averted by a wise spirit of conservatism and adherence to democratic principles.”

Mr. Burr was appointed a member of the commission to build the new state Capitol in 1873. When opposition arose against placing the Capitol in Bushnell Park, it was Burr’s suggestion that perhaps Trinity College could be persuaded to move and the Capitol could then be built just south of the park. His suggestion was adopted, Trinity moved to Summit Street and the Capitol was built on its former site. He was an early advocate for a centralized water system, today known as the Metropolitan District Commission. He was a trustee of Unity Church, President of the Dime Savings Bank, President of Spring Grove Cemetery and a director of the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company and Case Lockwood and Brainard Company.

Mr. Burr died on January 8, 1900 at his home at 102 Windsor Avenue at the age of 84. His funeral was conducted at his home and he was buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

In 1914 the Alfred E. Burr School, designed by Whiton and McMahon of Hartford was built at 400 Wethersfield Avenue. An addition was added to the school in 1920.

Mr. Burr's daughter, Ella Burr McManus in 1906 established in her will a trust of \$50,000 for a watering trough for man and beast (horses), in honor of her father, to be "erected in a public way." In 1923, after the last beneficiary of the income of the trust had died, it was possible to spend the trust funds for drinking fountains for men and horses, but they were no longer needed in the city. The trust continued to grow as the debate continued over what would be an appropriate way to honor Mrs. McManus's will. Finally it was agreed in the 1960s to close the public street, between the Wadsworth Atheneum and Hartford's Municipal Building, known as Atheneum Square South, and create a plaza with fountains and name it the "Alfred E. Burr Mall". In 1973 Alexander Calder's sculpture "Stegosaurus" was added to Burr Mall. The fact that the mall is in front of the Barber's 1920 Hartford Times building is an appropriate touch. *The Hartford Times* published its final edition on October 20, 1976.

John C. Clark was born in Eastman, Georgia in 1914 and came to Hartford in 1929. He graduated from Hartford Public High School and served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army in World War II, in both the European and Pacific theaters of operation. He graduated in 1947 from the New England School of Anatomy and Embalming and in 1957 opened the John C. Clark Funeral Services. He was employed as a contract analyst for the Travelers Insurance Company.

In 1955 John C. Clark, Jr. began his political career when he became a candidate for Hartford's Court of Common Council. He received endorsement by the Citizens Charter Committee and entered the October primary with 37 other candidates. He survived the primary, was endorsed by the Democratic Town Committee and on November 8, 1955 was elected to the council. He was the first African American to serve on Hartford's Court of Common Council.

In his eight years on the council, Mr. Clark took a strong stand on the fair rent problem in the city and drafted the legislation that created the Fair Rent Committee. He initiated in 1956 the program to rid the city of rats and improve housing in the city's North End. In 1960 he called for a study of the McCook Hospital's needs. In 1961, as the chair of the housing and development committee he advocated a study of "credit blacklisting" in Hartford neighborhoods. In 1960 he was awarded the Hartford Jaycees Good Government award. Mr. Clark retired from the council in 1964.

Mr. Clark served as the chair of the Human Relations Committee and the chair of the Education Committee for the Community Renewal Team of Greater Hartford. In 1965 he was appointed to the Hartford Redevelopment Agency and in 1965 served as a delegate to the Connecticut Constitutional Convention. He was a deacon and trustee of the Faith Congregational Church, and a director of the Hartford Heart Association.

John C. Clark, Jr. died on August 19, 1966 at the age of 52.

The original Clark Street School was named for the street where it was located. It had been St. Michael's School, a Catholic parochial school which was purchased by the city for a school. In 1966 Hartford built three new schools: the Lewis Fox Middle School on Greenfield Street, the Clark Street Elementary School on Clark Street and the Thomas J. Quirk Middle School on Edwards Street. On September 8, 1966 the Hartford Board of Education voted unanimously to name the Clark Street School, the John C. Clark, Jr. School in his honor and in recognition of "his personal contributions to Hartford's civic life." The John C. Clark, Jr. School opened in September of 1971.

Henry Cecil Dwight was born in Northampton, Mass. on January 19, 1841. He went to school in Northampton, and attended a classical school in Norfolk, Virginia. After graduating he returned to Northampton and worked as a clerk in the town's largest dry goods store. When he learned that Fort Sumter had been fired on by the Confederates on April 12, 1861, he enlisted in the army. When the Twenty-seventh Massachusetts Regiment was being organized, he took an active role in recruiting men, and quickly rose from the rank of private to sergeant major to second lieutenant to first lieutenant. For his gallantry in the Burnside campaign he was made a captain of Company A. After the war Dwight returned to Northampton. In 1865 moved to Hartford and married Miss Anna Marie Wright. He went into business with E.N. Kellogg & Co as wool dealers. The business prospered and his firm Dwight, Skinner & Co became one of the largest wool firms in the country.

Shortly after moving to Hartford, Dwight became active in the city's politics. In 1871 he represented the City's fourth ward on the Court of Common Council and four years later on the Board of Aldermen. In 1880 Mayor Morgan G. Bulkeley appointed him to the street board. In 1890 he was elected mayor of Hartford and is credited with greatly developing Hartford's park system.

He was elected a member of the South School District in 1886 and chairman from 1900 to 1918. The district was the largest in the city with five schools, 150 teachers and over 10,500 students. Dr. James Naylor also of the South School District remembered Dwight as "untiring in his work for and his interest in the children. They were unanimous in their love for him."

Dwight served as paymaster on the staff of Governor H.B. Harrison, and was accorded the rank of general. He was a member of South Congregational Church, a director of Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford Hospital, the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company, and the American Industrial Bank and Trust Company

General Henry C. Dwight died on May 2, 1918 at his home at 23 Charter Oak Place. His funeral was held at South Congregational Church and he was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery

The oldest school building in the South School District is the 1883 High Victorian Gothic style brownstone and polychromed brick building that measures 26 feet by 75 feet. It was designed by Jacob Bachmeyer of Hartford. He is listed as an architect in Hartford from 1880-1890 and then moved to New York City. The school opened on October 1, 1883 and was built at a cost of \$8,000. In 1901 a large addition was added to the school. In 1883 there were 108 pupils. Originally called the Wethersfield Avenue School, around 1910 it was renamed the Henry C. Dwight School in his honor.

Today (2010) the school is called the Dwight-Bellizzi Asian Studies Academy with two campuses: Wethersfield Avenue, PK – 2nd Grade; South Street 3 – 8 Grade.

Michael D. Fox was born on October 10, 1885 in Clare County, Ireland, the son of Michael and Mary Davitt Fox. In 1908 he was an instructor at LaSalette College and in 1913 became the principal of New Hartford schools. In 1915 he was hired to teach ninth grade at the Alfred E. Burr School. From 1917 to 1933 he was the superintendent of the Washington School District and principal of the Washington Street School. As the superintendent of the Washington School District he inaugurated a plan for teaching crippled children in their homes; started a course in safety that was later adopted by for all Hartford schools, organized the eight week vacation in the school calendar, and his district was the first in the city to vote pensions for its teachers.

Mr. Fox was a great defender of the district school system believing “much greater opportunities for political knavery was possible under a citywide consolidated school system.” For 15 years Mr. Fox weathered the storms. In 1932, on the morning of the district elections, a newspaper reported that there were “charges of ‘unexplained’, ‘exorbitant’ and ‘unwarranted’ payments running into many thousands of dollars made in an audit of the Washington School District.” The voters ousted the committee members and in their place voted in persons who had publically stated that if elected they would dismiss Mr. Fox. (The charges outlined in the newspaper were later dismissed by the courts.) Mr. Fox refused to resign but he was out as superintendent.

Controversy continued to follow Mr. Fox. The Hartford Board of Education in a 5 to 4 vote decided to shuffle various individuals in order to appoint him acting principal of the Brackett School. There were then claims that his permanent supervisor’s certificate was invalid. The city said it was valid, but then the Supreme Court decided it was not. The school board made him the vice-principal of the Arsenal School in 1936. The State Board of Education then declared that Hartford would not receive its grant for 1935-1936 and continued employment of Mr. Fox would forfeit the 1936-1937 grant of some \$200,000. In 1936 Mr. Fox resigned from the Arsenal School. In June of 1936 he applied to the State Board of Education for a special permit entitling him to hold an elementary principal’s job. The request was turned down. Members stated that he did not meet the qualifications for a principal’s certificate, so no exception was warranted.

In 1939 Mr. Fox graduated from Westfield Teachers College with a B.S. degree in education. Later that year he applied for the position of principal of the Brackett School, but he was not appointed. He became the juvenile probation officer of the Hartford Juvenile Court on appointment of Judge William J. Burke and John M. Bailey.

Michael D. Fox died on November 26, 1946 at his home at 46 Eastview Street at the age of 61. Following the funeral at St. Augustine’s Church he was buried in Mt. St. Benedict’s Cemetery.

In 1958 in a dramatic reversal of their opinion of him, the Hartford School Board renamed the Washington Street School in his honor. The Washington Street School began as a one-room school in 1842. In 1874 that schoolhouse was replaced by a brick building. In 1895, Hartford architect Brooks M. Lincoln absorbed the 1874 building in a new building. In 1906, 1917 and 1929 other additions and modifications were made to the school.

On September 21, 1976, the Hartford Board of Education decided to rename the “old” Bulkeley High School at 470 Maple Avenue in honor of Michael D. Fox. The Washington Street School/Michael D. Fox School was later converted into housing for the elderly. The present Michael D. Fox School was built in 1924-1926 and was designed by Frank Irving Cooper with Edward T. Wiley. It is a splendid example of the Collegiate Gothic style. The elaborate front entrance is canted to face the street corner, while each long wing leads to another entrance: one to the gymnasium, the other to the auditorium. In 1922 Cooper had designed the Weaver High School, now the M.L. King, Jr. School.

Mary Mather Turner Hooker was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on February 26, 1864. She was educated at the Sanford School, and after her marriage to Edward W. Hooker came to Hartford. Her husband served as Hartford Mayor from 1908 to 1910. When her husband died in 1915, Mrs. Hooker was named to complete his unexpired term as a member of the city's Board of Education. In 1918 she was elected to the Board on her own right and continued to serve until December of 1937 when she declined re-election. She was the secretary of the Board from June 1918 until June of 1928, when she was elected the president of the Board. She served as president from 1928 to 1929 and from 1931 to 1935. She was president when the consolidation of the city's school districts occurred in 1934. She was credited with guiding "the Board through this difficult transition, over and over again averting potential controversies, through her fairness, courtesy and experience."

As a member of the school board she served on the sub-committee dealing with schools for the physically handicapped and the schools for the academically handicapped. She also served on committees on insurance and cafeterias. In 1920 Mrs. Hooker took part in the deliberations of the Republican State Central Committee. In 1921 she was chosen as the Republican candidate for the Connecticut House of Representatives. Mayor Walter Batterson said it was "because of the outstanding regard of the people of the city for her." She won the election. She was the first woman member of the State Legislature, and was the first woman to make a speech before the House of Representatives. She was re-elected in 1925.

Mrs. Hooker was a noted philanthropist. To the Hartford Hospital and Saint Francis Hospital she created a free bed fund, so no one would be turned away. She generously contributed to the children's pavilion at Mount Sinai Hospital. She gave generously to the funds to provide shoes for children, to the Community Chest, the YMCA, the Salvation Army, various colleges including the Tuskegee Institute. In recognition of her leadership she was the first honorary member of the Veteran Firemen's Association, an honorary member of Boy Scout Troop No 104, a patroness of the United Societies of Saint Patrick Church, a boxholder at a benefit boxing exhibition for Mt. Sinai Hospital, chaired a committee to sell Easter seals, among others. In 1933 she established the Mary M. Hooker Trust Fund of \$2,000, the interest to be available for prizes, gifts and entertainments at the Hooker school.

For many years Mrs. Hooker lived at the Heublein Hotel at the corner of Main and Gold Streets in Hartford. She died on May 13, 1939 at the age of 75. Her funeral service was at Center Church and she was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Several schools in Hartford, at one time or another, have been named for her, in tribute to her service on the school board and dedication to the teaching of children. The first was the 1925 Ungraded School in the Hillyer Homestead on North Main Street. On November 5, 1930 it was renamed the Mary M. Hooker School. In 1934 the Mary M. Hooker School was consolidated into the Walter G. Camp School. At that time the school for the physically handicapped, on Stonington Street, formerly the Outdoor School was renamed for Mrs. Hooker. During World War II it was abandoned because of its close proximity to Colt Firearms Manufacturing Company. The students were transferred to the Washington Street School. On November 8, 1949 Hartford voters approved the construction of two schools on Sherbrooke Avenue and on Lyme Street. The Sherbrooke School was estimated to cost \$1,125,000. On January 13, 1950 the Hartford Board of Education voted to name the one on Sherbrooke Avenue the Mary M. Hooker School. On June 3, 1952 the school was formally dedicated. In 2008 the Mary M. Hooker School was transformed into a modern green facility. BL Companies from Meriden designed the 30,000 square-foot addition and other renovations for a cost of over \$42 million.

180 White Street
Hartford, CT 06114
860-695-3860

Eleanor Bride Kennelly was born in the Moodus section of East Haddam, Connecticut. She graduated from Middletown High School and the Danbury State Teachers College, today Western Connecticut State University.

For many years she taught in the Washington Street School District. She served on the Hartford Board of Education from 1931 to 1943 and from 1947 to 1953 for a total of 18 years.

On her retirement the Hartford Board of Education voted to rename the Southwest School on White Street the Eleanor B. Kennelly School. At the dedication ceremonies on Tuesday, April 20, 1954, former school board president Edward P. Ahern noted: "Eighteen years and about 1,000 meetings on the Board of Education won her a school of her own."

On Monday March 18, 1979 she died at the age of 82. She was the widow of Frank A. Kennelly, the mother of James J. Kennelly, once a Hartford state representative and Speaker of the House of Representatives. She was the mother-in-law of Barbara Bailey Kennelly, Secretary of State in Connecticut, 1979-1982 and Congressperson from the First District, 1982-1999.

The Eleanor B. Kennelly School was built in 1900 as the Southwest School. It was designed by Hartford architect Isaac Allen, Jr., who also designed the school's 1913 and 1923 additions. In 1927-1928 and 1930 other additions were added to the school designed by Ebbets and Frid of Hartford. Isaac Allen, Jr. is better known for the design of the old Stackpole, Moore, Tryon store on the corner of Asylum and Trumbull streets in Hartford with its cast-iron front and the Central Baptist Church at 455-457 Main Street.

M.L. King
25 Ridgefield Street
Hartford, CT 06112
860-695-3980

Mascot: Tigers

The Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, the son of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams King. He attended the Yonge Street Elementary School, the David T. Howard Elementary School, the Atlanta University Laboratory School and the Booker T. Washington High School. He skipped both the ninth and twelfth grades, and because of his high scores on the college entrance exams in the junior year of high school, he entered Morehouse College at the age of fifteen. In 1948 he graduated from Morehouse College with a B.A. degree in Sociology. He then attended the Crozer Theological Seminary, was elected the senior class president and gave the valedictory address. At graduation he won the Pearl Plafker Award as the most outstanding student and the J. Lewis Crozer fellowship for graduate study at a university of his choice. He went on to study Systematic Theology at Boston University and was awarded a Ph.D. in June, 1955.

In February, 1948, at the age of nineteen he was ordained a minister at the Ebenezer Baptist Church. Following his graduation from Boston University he accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. In November of 1959 he resigned to serve as co-pastor with his father at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Dr. King was a pivotal leader in the Civil Rights Movement. He was the president of the Montgomery Improvement Association that organized the Montgomery Bus boycott from 1955 to 1956 (381 days). At the Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C. in 1963 he gave his iconic "I have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial and Time Magazine named him Man of the Year. In 1964 Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize the youngest man, the second American (President Theodore Roosevelt was the first) to receive the honor.

Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 on the balcony of the Lorraine motel in Memphis, Tennessee by James Earl Ray. He is buried on Freedom Plaza by the Freedom Hall Complex of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

On September 21, 1976 the Hartford Board of Education, following the recommendation of the board's School Naming Committee approved the renaming the former Weaver High School, currently undergoing renovation, the Martin Luther King Jr. School. It also recommended naming the new library in the King School, the Frank O. Jones Library after the former principal and superintendent who died in 1969 at the age of 102.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. School was built in 1922 and named for longtime superintendent of Hartford Public Schools, Thomas Snell Weaver (1845-1920). Designed by Frank Irving Cooper with Philip A. Mason in the Collegiate Gothic style, it is architectural masterpiece, similar to the 1924 Bulkeley/M.D. Fox School that was also designed by Cooper. The building overlooks Keney Park and Albany Avenue from a commanding site. The building is divided into three parts: a three-story main block containing classrooms and offices, and smaller two-story connected buildings at either end for the gymnasium and auditorium. The central projecting pavilion of the main block has the main entrance, recessed within the arch, and is fully embellished with intricate Gothic details. Over the entrance in cast stone are images of 13 Aesop's Fables by Anthony Zottoli of Boston.

65 Van Block Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
860-695-4140

Richard J. Kinsella was born in Hartford on October 5, 1857, the son of Helen and Mathew Kinsella. He attended schools in the South District. After graduation he worked for his father as a carpenter in building the state capitol in Hartford. Later he worked as a clerk in a grocery store and as a traveling salesman for a wholesale company. As a young man Mr. Kinsella was known as “Dick Kingsley” In 1866 when he formed a partnership with Thomas A. Smith it was called Kingsley and Smith. They were wholesale and retail dealers in butter and eggs. According to contemporary accounts “everybody knew that it wasn’t his name that, when he went into business, it seemed a good trade name. So, to the day of his death, he was ‘Kinsella’ in private life and in politics and ‘Kingsley’ in business. All but one of the five Kinsella children uses the name ‘Kingsley’.”

He served six years on the Court of Common Council from the old Third Ward in the south end of Hartford. He also served as an alderman. Five times Mr. Kinsella was the Democratic Party’s nominee for mayor: 1916, 1918, 1920, 1922, and 1924. In the 1916 election Kinsella lost to Republican Frank Hagarty by 869 votes. In 1918 Mr. Kinsella beat Mr. Hagarty by 152 votes. In 1920 Mr. Kinsella lost to Newton C. Brainard lost by 592 votes. The 1922 contest for the Democratic nomination was a bitterly contested one. In the primary Mr. Kinsella succeeded in getting 3,537 votes, his opponents Mr. Berry 1,283 votes and Mr. McDonough 908 votes. Mr. Kinsella went on to defeat the Republican candidate Anson T. McCook by 3,600 votes. Mr. Kinsella had campaigned on the pledge to lower the street car fares. In 1924 his health had begun to fail, and despite friends’ advice that he should not run he did. He was the Democratic nominee and lost in the election to Norman Stevens, the Republican candidate by less than 200 votes.

For over sixteen years he was a member of the South School District Committee. He was a member of the Hillyer Guard, Company B, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Mr. Kinsella was married on February 27, 1830 to Miss Catherine Scott of Hartford and they had seven children. Two of his grandsons were elected mayor of Hartford: James H. Kinsella (1957-1960) and George B. Kinsella (1965-1967).

Richard J. Kinsella died at his home on Wethersfield Avenue on August 12, 1925.

After he lost the 1924 election the Hartford School Board voted to name the new school under construction on Charter Oak Avenue in his honor. His obituary mentioned that “Mr. Kinsella had expressed the desire that he might live to see the opening next month of the new Richard J. Kinsella school . . . the latest addition to the schools of the South District of whose district committee he had long been a member.

Thomas J. McDonough Elementary School

111 Hillside Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06106
860-695-4260

Mascot: Dolphins

Thomas J. McDonough was born in Fall River, Mass. He was a graduate of the Bridgewater, Massachusetts State Teachers College; the Fitchburg, Massachusetts State Teachers College and the University of Massachusetts. In 1926 he came to Hartford as the vice principal of the Wilson Street School.

He became principal of the Hillside Avenue School (today the Moylan School) in 1931. When the Moylan School was joined with the Wilson Street School in 1934 he was made the principal of the combined schools. In addition to serving as school administrator, McDonough served as an athletic coach at both the Washington Street School and the Wilson Street School.

In June of 1963 Mr. McDonough retired as the principal of the combined Moylan-Wilson Street School. The school's PTA asked the Board of Education to consider renaming the Wilson Street School in his honor. On September 10, 1963 in a ceremony in the Moylan School auditorium, the Wilson Street school was formally rededicated the Thomas J. McDonough School.

The first Wilson Street School building was a frame structure built before 1880 and faced Wilson Street. In 1902 a brick addition was added to it. The addition still stands and is the first part of the section of the school that faces Hillside Avenue. In 1917 the original frame building was replaced with a brick and brownstone building designed by Edward T. Wiley. Wiley in 1924 would design the Bulkeley High School on Maple Avenue with Frank Irving Cooper. Whiton & McMahan designed the 1921 extension to the school.

Thirman Milner Elementary School

104 Vine Street
Hartford, Ct 06112
860-695-4380

Mascot: Owls

Thirman Milner was born in Hartford on October 29, 1933. In the 1950s and 1960s he worked as a civil rights and community activist, marching with dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Hon. Andrew Young and Wilber G. Smith . He served in the Connecticut House of Representatives and Senate and in both chambers served as assistant majority leader. On December 1, 1981 he was sworn in as Mayor of the city of Hartford, being the first African American to be elected as mayor of a New England city. Mr. Milner served three terms concluding on December 1, 1987. He was succeeded by Ms. Carrie Saxon Perry.

The Vine Street School was designed by Isaac A. Allen. Jr. of Hartford and built in 1924 with an addition in 1929. In 1989 the Hartford Board of Education voted to rename the Vine Street School the Thirman Milner Elementary School.

Cornelius A. Moylan was born in Hartford on January 23, 1898 the son of Delia Dolan Moylan and Dennis P. Moylan. He went to the local parochial schools, including the Immaculate Conception School. At age 11 he dropped out and worked for three years. He completed his last year of grammar school in the summer of 1915 and entered Williston Academy in Easthampton, Massachusetts. He graduated from Williston with the highest academic honors and with the coveted "Yale Scholar" prize. He had been the captain of the baseball team, on the track team, editor of the school paper and a member of the debating team. He graduated from Yale University in 1924, completed Yale Law School in two years, and entered the Connecticut Bar upon graduation. He became associated with the late Frances A. Pallotti and in 1928 was made a junior partner in the firm of Pallotti, Covello and Moylan. From 1930 to 1932 he served as the director of the Legal Aid Bureau. He won election to the state senate in 1938, the first Republican to be elected from Hartford in years, with a victory of over 5,000 votes.

In the senate he served as the chair of the Labor Committee and played a major part in drafting the labor legislation enacted by the 1939 Legislature. He played an active part in securing city charter amendments for the Police and Fire departments. Governor Baldwin appointed him an unemployment compensation commissioner for the First Congressional District. In July of 1945 he was appointed by Governor Baldwin as a Police Court Judge, and was sworn into the position alongside the Democratic appointee Abraham A. Ribicoff. Ribicoff would later serve as Connecticut's governor, and U.S. Senator, and secretary of H.E.W.

On August 29, 1945, Hartford Mayor William A. Mortensen announced that he would not run for a second term. Mr. Moylan entered the race for the Republican nomination and won his party's nomination by the vote of 91 to 77. The Democratic candidate was Thomas J. Spellacy who had served as Hartford's mayor from December 1935 but unexpectedly resigned in his fourth term on June 18, 1943. Mr. Moylan led a spirited campaign charging his opponent with "deserting the city" when he had resigned in 1943. Mr. Moylan asked the voters: "What guarantee has the public that it won't happen again?" Mr. Spellacy claimed he had resigned "to preserve the city's budgetary and financial structure." Mr. Moylan was elected in what the press called "a landslide" with a victory of over 9,000 votes. Mr. Moylan was sworn in as Hartford's 50th mayor on December 4, 1945. Cornelius Moylan became ill on December 12, 1946 and died at St. Francis Hospital on December 24, 1946.

On October 13, 1929 the Washington School District announced the plans for a new Hillside Avenue School to be built at a cost of \$450,000. The architects were Whiton & McMahon in the "American Perpendicular" style. It was said to be the first school in Connecticut to be of that modern design. The school was designed to be in two parts: one for teaching (classrooms) and administration, the other a combination auditorium and gymnasium with a pool below. On May 11, 1930 the Hartford Courant published an elevation drawing of the exterior. The Hillside Avenue School was dedicated on Friday, April 24, 1931.

Mayor Edward N. Allen who was elected by the Court of Common Council to succeed the late Mayor Moylan suggested to the Hartford Board of Education that the Southwest or Hillside Avenue School might be named for the late mayor. The Hillside Avenue School was chosen at the request of Alfred E. Moylan who said "that if a school were to bear that name, he felt that his brother would have preferred to be remembered in that school nearest his childhood home." On April 17, 1947 the Hartford Board of Education voted unanimously "that as of July 1 the Hillside Avenue School would be known as the Cornelius A. Moylan School."

Dr. James Henry Naylor was born in Schuylerville, New York on August 3, 1869 to son of Jerome and Elizabeth Babcock Naylor. He attended public school in New York and graduated from the University of Vermont in 1895 with the distinction of having honor grades all four years. He was also a noted baseball player and as third baseman was part of the school's "most famous nine" which was invited to the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. They competed against Yale for the national collegiate title, and though Naylor scored the only Vermont run, they lost 2 to 1. He signed to play professional baseball with the Baltimore Orioles, but decided to abandon that career for one in medicine. In the summer of 1895 he became an intern at Hartford Hospital and after receiving his medical degree, went into private practice. In 1902 he received the first of many governmental appointments as clerk of the Board of Health under newly elected Mayor Sullivan.

In 1909 he won election to the South School District Committee which he held until the consolidation into one district in 1934. He had strongly opposed the consolidation of the districts. When it happened, he quit all educational work in Hartford for several years. In 1939 he successfully ran for a seat on the Board of Education and served as president from 1941-1943. At his direction the South District was one of the first to adopt a health program which included physical exams and treatment, special lunches for undernourished students, inoculations against diphtheria and lung X-rays.

In 1927 the plans were being drawn up for a new grammar school on Franklin Avenue to replace the old Lincoln School. At the suggestion of Patrick McGovern, a state senator, it was voted to name the new school the Dr. James H. Naylor School in his honor. The school was officially dedicated on March 1, 1929.

Dr. Naylor organized and was the first president of the South End Bank and Trust Company, was a thirty-second degree Mason in Hartford Lodge F and AM, a member of the Shrine and Knights Templar and a member of the University Club.

Dr. Naylor died on December 25, 1950 and following the service at South Congregational Church in Hartford was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

The Dr. James H. Naylor School was built in 1927-1929 and designed by firm of Whiton & McMahon.

Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School

260 Holcomb Street

Hartford, CT 06112

860-695-4840

Mascot: Rams

Sarah J. Rawson was a teacher for fourteen years and then the principal the Holcomb Street School for an additional seventeen years.

On June 14, 1939 the Hartford Board of Education voted “that as of July 1 the Holcomb Street School shall be known as the Sarah J. Rawson School ‘in grateful recognition of the conscientious and effective service of Sarah J. Rawson as a teacher and principal and as a token of the love and respect of pupils, parents, staff members and the board’ for her.”

The Holcomb Street School replaced the Gravel Hill School. It was planned in 1920 with an appropriation of \$235,000 and built following plans by William D. Johnson of Hartford. The school opened on January 30, 1922. The original school was built in phases, the first phase completed in 1922, the second in 1923 and the third in 1927.

Maria C. Colon Sanchez Elementary School

176 Babcock Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-695-4940

Mascot: Roosters

Maria C. Colon Sanchez was born in 1926 in Comerio, Puerto Rico. In 1953 she came to Hartford. From “Maria’s News Stand” at 246 Albany Avenue she helped people find jobs, homes and an education. She mentored the Puerto Rican community.

She founded the Puerto Rican Parade and co-founded LaCasa de Puerto Rico, the Society of Legal Services, the Spanish American Merchants Association, the Puerto Rican Businessmen’s Association and the Community Renewal Team (CRT). She was a member of the Hartford Board of Education for 16 years and was an enthusiastic pioneer in the legislation of bilingual/bicultural education programs in the State of Connecticut. She recognized the right of children with limited proficiency in English to be taught in their native language.

In 1988 Maria Sanchez was the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the Connecticut General Assembly. She served until her death on November 25, 1989.

In September of 1991 the Hartford Board of Education dedicated the Maria C. Sanchez Elementary School on Babcock Street. It replaced the 1878 St. Anne’s School (the Lawrence Street School) which formerly occupied the site.

On October 14, 1993 she was further recognized on the Hartford Public Library’s Plaza of Fame.

Simpson-Waverly School

55 Waverly Street
Hartford, CT 06112
860-695-5160

Mascot: Beavers

Dr. Frank T. Simpson was born in Florence, Alabama. After graduating from Tougaloo College in Mississippi he came to Hartford in 1929. He began his civil rights activities in Hartford as a social worker for the Independent Social Worker, a North Hartford agency. In 1944 he was the first paid employee of the fledgling state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. For fifteen years he served as executive Director of the commission, the first state civil rights commission in the United States. Among his accomplishments were the opening of a large construction union for African American workers and the hiring of the first African American saleswomen by downtown Hartford department stores. Dr. Simpson traveled widely throughout the country advocating desegregation as a consultant to state governments and educational institutions. In 1960 he became an executive assistant to the state welfare commissioner.

In 1959 the United Negro College Fund gave him its meritorious service award in recognition of his efforts on behalf of higher education for African Americans as the chairman of the fund. In 1966 he was the first African American to receive a special citation of merit from the Hartford Seminary Foundation Alumni Association. He was also honored by the Lions Club of Hartford, the Prince Hall Masonic Chapter of New England and the Delta Sigma Theta fraternity.

Dr. Simpson held two master's degrees from the Hartford Seminary Foundation and an honorary doctorate from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina.

Dr. Simpson died at his home at 27 Keeney Terrace on March 28, 1974 at the age of 67.

On May 15, 1973 the Hartford Board of Education voted to rename the Waverly School at 55 Waverly Street the Frank T. Simpson Waverly School.

In 1967 the Hartford Board of Education began the planning for the Waverly Street School. It was the first school in Hartford incorporating a day-care center. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on November 12, 1968 led by Mayor Ann Uccello, members of the Court of Common Council, the Board of Education, city manager Freeman and the superintendent of schools Medill Bair. It was built by Associated Construction at a bonded cost 3 million dollars.

Fred D. Wish was born on May 15, 1890 in Portland, Maine. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1913. From 1913-1914 he was a teacher/principal of the Scarborough Maine High School. From 1914-1917 he taught history and government at the Portland Maine High School.

In 1917 Mr. Wish came to Hartford to teach history and government at the Hartford Public High School. In 1918-1920 he supervised the Hartford adult evening school. On January 18, 1923 Mr. Wish was elected superintendent of Hartford schools, succeeding Thomas Snell Weaver, who died on February 8, 1922. When he was appointed superintendent, the elementary schools were under district management and Hartford had only one high school, the Hartford Public High School. As superintendent he was responsible for only certain citywide programs such as manual training, home economics, the adult school, and the two special schools for the mentally and physically handicapped. The Hartford Trade School, today the state run A.I. Prince Technical School was established under his regime. Junior highs, special classes for children who were hard of hearing or had eyesight difficulties and one of the country's first veteran's high schools began when he was superintendent. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the modernization of the entire operations of the Hartford educational system including the consolidation of the schools from locally controlled districts to one uniform operation.

On Friday, March 27, 1951 Mr. Wish and the Assistant Superintendent of Schools Thomas F. Carberry announced their plans to retire from their positions at the end August, before the start of a new school year. Local speculation in the press was that the resignations were the result of differences between Mr. Wish and Mr. Carberry with the president of the Board of Education, Mr. Lewis Fox. One person noted: Mr. Fox "interfered in administrative matters" and another that Mr. Fox "was over conscientious in his post as head of the Board of Education, and often concerned himself with matters which school officials felt were situations with which they were paid to deal with without lay advice or active interest." There were several attempts by various members of the board to get the gentlemen to reconsider, but to no avail. Mr. Wish's only public comment was that "he was retiring to give the opportunity under a younger superintendent for the school program to proceed at the tempo desired by the board."

Mr. Wish was active in the Hartford Civitan Club and was president of the First Unitarian Society in Hartford. The Boy Scouts had awarded him their "Silver Beaver" award in 1944. He had been the president of the New England Association of School Superintendents.

Mr. Fred D. Wish Jr. died at Lakeland, Florida on Sunday, December 28, 1958.

In 1960 the Hartford Board of Education voted to build a new elementary school on Barbour Street to relieve the overcrowding in the area. It was decided to name the school in honor of the former superintendent. Wilkins and Stecker were the architects for the school. The cost of the land, building and equipment was \$2,200,000. Miss Elizabeth M. Dennehy a teacher at the Bracket School was chosen as the first principal. The school opened in the fall of 1961. Dean Keller of the Yale University Art School was commissioned to paint a portrait of Mr. Wish to hang in the school.

Middle

Dr. Joseph J. Bellizzi Middle School
215 South Street
Hartford, CT 06114
860-695-2400

Mascot: Dragons
formerly the Eagles

Dr. Joseph John Bellizzi was born on April 6, 1921. He was a respected Hartford pediatrician at St. Francis Hospital and for 33 years served as Medical Director for the Hartford Public Schools.

Dr. Bellizzi died on February 26, 1991.

On June 12, 2003 South Middle School Principal Jim Fagan presided over the ceremony that changed the school's name to the "Dr. Joseph J. Bellizzi Middle School." Participating in the ceremony were the Archbishop Daniel Cronin of the Hartford Archdiocese, Mayor Eddie Perez, president of the Hartford Board of Education the Reverend Wayne Carter and Hartford Public Schools Superintendent Robert Henry.

The Bellizzi Middle School was formerly the South Catholic High School.

In 2011 the school was known as the Dwight-Bellizzi Asian Studies Academy with two campuses: Wethersfield Avenue, PK – 2nd Grade; South Street 3rd – 8th Grade.

Lewis Fox was born in Hartford and attended Noah Webster and Hartford Public High School. He graduated from Princeton University and New York Law School. As an attorney he was associated with Judge Solomon Elsner and was a member of the firm of Elsner and Nassau beginning in 1962. He was a member of the Hartford County Bar Association and served on the admissions committee.

Mr. Fox was first elected to the Hartford Board of Education in 1937, and served for 37 years, the longest tenure in city history. He served as the president for six years. A Republican in a heavily Democratic city, he lost only one board election.

Mr. Fox worked for equality education early in his board career. In 1943 he condemned race hatred before the Woman's Baptist Mission. In 1971 he supported the idea of bringing white students into predominately black neighborhoods. On February 17, 1971 the Hartford Board of Education meeting in executive session voted to name the Northwest Middle School in honor of Lewis Fox.

Mr. Fox died on September 8, 1971 at the age of 72. He was a bachelor and lived at 750 Prospect Avenue. He had established a chaplain corps at Hartford Hospital in memory of his foster mother, Anna M. Fulling. He served on the boards of the YMCA, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Wadsworth Atheneum among others.

Thomas J. Quirk was born in Milford, Massachusetts on November 29, 1892. He graduated from Holy Cross College in 1915 and received his masters from there in 1919. He taught at LaSalle Academy in Providence, Rhode Island for two years and was the principal of the junior and senior high schools in Milford, Massachusetts for 13 years. In 1932 he came to Hartford as superintendent of the Washington School district. When the city's school system was reorganized he became the principal of the Burr Junior High School in 1934. In 1938 he was appointed principal of Hartford Public High School. On November 1, 1962 he retired from Hartford Public High School

Dr. Quirk was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws from Holy Cross College "as an alumnus of distinguished career in the field of secular education . . . a man whose exemplary character is the living reflection of honor, justice, truth and charity."

Dr. Quirk died of a heart attack in front of Hartford Public High School on Monday, January 14, 1963 at the age of 70.

On January 20, 1971 the Hartford Board of Education voted to name the new Clay Hill Middle School, set to open in 1972, the Thomas J. Quirk Middle School.

High School

Morgan Gardner Bulkeley High School

300 Wethersfield Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06114
860-695-1000

Mascot: Bulldogs

Morgan Gardner Bulkeley was born on December 26, 1837 in East Haddam, Connecticut the son of Eliphalet Adams Bulkeley and his wife, Lydia Smith (Morgan) Bulkeley. His father was a lawyer, state legislator, organizer of the Republican Party in Connecticut and president and organizer of the Connecticut Mutual Insurance Company and the Aetna Life Insurance Company.

Morgan Bulkeley attended Hartford Public High School and at fourteen began working at the Aetna Life Insurance Company. Shortly afterward he went to New York to become a salesman at his uncle's H.P.Morgan & Company. When the Civil War began Bulkeley enlisted with the Thirteenth New York Volunteers. At the war's end he returned to H.P. Morgan & Co. After his father dies in 1872 he returned to Hartford and founded and served as president of the United States Bank. In 1879 he became president of Aetna, a position he held until his death.

On February 11, 1885 Bulkeley married Fannie Briggs Houghton, and they had three children. During World War I she served as the chair of the Liberty Loan Bond Drive.

Bulkeley served on the Hartford Court of Common Council in 1876, the Board of Aldermen from 1876-1880, and was the Mayor of Hartford from 1880-1888. In 1880 he ran unsuccessfully as the Republican candidate for governor. In 1888 he ran again and in an unusual and highly contested election was declared governor by the legislature. A governor's term was then for only two years and the tradition was that one should only serve one term. Bulkeley was denied his bid to be nominated for a second consecutive term. The Connecticut State Constitution required the successful candidate for Governor to have 50% of the votes. As neither candidate in the election had 50%, Bulkeley refused to vacate the office. The legislature was deadlocked (the House was controlled by Republicans, the Senate by Democrats) and no candidate was declared the winner. The legislature refused to pass any spending legislation, so Bulkeley borrowed funds from the Aetna to keep the state operating. When the legislature locked him out of his office, he used a crowbar to break in, earning him the title "The Crowbar Governor." The Connecticut Supreme Court finally ruled that Bulkeley was indeed the governor as no candidate had secured 50% of the votes and ordered the Aetna to be reimbursed with interest. From 1905 to 1911 Bulkeley served in the United States Senate.

Bulkeley served on many commissions including the one that oversaw the construction of the State Library and Supreme Court Building in 1910. He was a founder of the Hartford Dark Blues baseball team, was the first president of baseball's National League, and was elected to the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown. In 1917 he started the drive that saved Hartford's Old State House from demolition.

Mr. Bulkeley died on November 6, 1922 at Hartford.

Bulkeley High School was named in his honor and opened in 1926 on Maple Avenue; (see M.D. Fox Elementary School for full description.) In the 1960 there was considerable discussion of the need for new high school buildings. In November of 1966 Hartford voters approved a bond package of \$41,435,000 for new schools. Caudill Rowlett & Scott were the architects for both the new Bulkeley and the new Weaver High Schools. The Bulkeley High School on Wethersfield Avenue opened on September 9, 1974. It is a four story, 292,500 square-foot building designed to hold up to 2,000 students.

Capital Prep Magnet School
in the Barnard Brown School building
1304 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
860-695-9800

Mascot: Trailblazers (symbolized by a Texas longhorn steer)

Henry Barnard (1811-1900) was one of the great pioneers in American education. He was born in Hartford in the 1807 brick house at 118 Main Street opposite South Green. South Green is Hartford's first park, and Park Street is named as the street that began at the park. Barnard's house still stands with the Greek revival portico that he added in 1843. Henry Barnard was a reformer of public schools in Connecticut and Rhode Island. He was principal of the first State Normal School of Connecticut in New Britain, the first commissioner of education in Rhode Island, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin (1858-1860), president of St. John's College in Annapolis (1866-1867) and was the first United States Commissioner of Education (1867-1870). He believed that all schools should be "good enough for the richest, and affordable by the poorest."

Henry Barnard died on July 5, 1900 and following a funeral service at his home on Main Street was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford.

Flavius A. Brown was born in Hebron on August 31, 1806. Accordingly to contemporary accounts, "at the age of 16 he had acquired great proficiency in the use of the pen, and left home to become an instructor of penmanship. His schools in Manchester and Vernon were more largely attended than any in the county." He came to Hartford as a "teacher of writing" and in 1868 was the chairman of the committee to decide what new buildings were needed to accommodate the growing number of students in the city. "The voters instructed them (the committee) to select a site and put up a new edifice. The building was completed in 1869 and by unanimous vote of the district" the school was named The Brown School in his honor. The school stood on the corner of Market and Talcott Streets. A second school building was erected there in 1897 and the Cone Annex on Talcott Street in 1922. For forty-three years he served as the chairman of the First School District. Among the Brown School's graduates were Sophie Tucker, Otis Skinner and Morgan G. Bulkeley.

Mr. Brown was secretary of the Hartford County Agricultural Society for several years, a communicant and vestryman of the Christ Church Episcopal, and a senior member of the book firm of Brown and Gross since 1835. In 1857 he was elected the Democratic Treasurer of the city and a year later was also elected the Treasurer of the town, and continued to be elected to both positions until his death. Notices recorded that "he guarded and looked after the city funds with great care, and has left a record of good financial accountability." Mr. Brown was also a director of the Connecticut River Bank, the State Mutual Fire Insurance Company, treasurer of the Larrabee Fund, and of the Hartford Bank.

Flavius A. Brown died on February 13, 1880 at his home on Main Street in Hartford.

In 1891 the North District School building at 249 High Street was erected, designed by Cook Hapgood and Co. On June 8, 1909 the building was renamed "The Henry Barnard School" in honor of Mr. Barnard. In 1927 a "new" Barnard School was built at 1304 North Main Street designed by Joseph E. Marchetti of Hartford. The 249 High Street School became the Board of Education Building. In June of 1951 the Brown School was closed and its pupils transferred to the Barnard School on Main Street. Under public pressure the Board of Education added Flavius Brown's name to Henry Barnard's so the school would be known as the Barnard Brown School.

55 Forest Street
Hartford, CT 06105
860-695-1315

Hartford Public High School is believed to have grown from the classes that Hartford founder the Rev. Thomas Hooker gave to young men from his house on Prospect Street. In the will of Governor Edward Hopkins of March 7, 1657 funds were provided for a free school in the city. In 1839 the First School Society proposed forming a high school and on December 1, 1847 Hartford Public High School was dedicated by Henry Barnard and the Rev. Horace Bushnell. The school building represented the latest in school design with spacious classrooms. In 1869 a brick and brownstone school was built on Asylum Hill overlooking Bushnell Park on Hopkins Street, just west of the railroad station. Because of the number of students it was enlarged in 1877. The building was destroyed by a spectacular fire in January of 1882. Architect George Keller designed the replacement high school in 1883 and it was enlarged in 1897, and by 1914 had more than doubled in size. It had a telescope and observatory, state-of-the-art laboratories and James Goodwin Batterson's collections of fossils and dinosaur tracks. In the 1960s the high school was demolished and Interstate I-84 replaced it. The new Hartford Public High School was built on Forest Street and opened in 1963.

It has been stated that the Hartford Public High School is the only high school in the country with the word "Public" in its name.

R.J. Luke Williams former teacher at Hartford Public High School has done an extraordinary job of preserving and sharing the rich legacy of Hartford Public High School by creating a museum within the Forest Street complex.

Thomas Snell Weaver was born on February 5, 1845 in Willimantic, Connecticut, the son of William L. Weaver and Lois Snell weaver. His father was a well known teacher, book seller and writer. At 14 he entered the office of 'The Willimantic Journal' where his father was the editor, and learned the printer's trade. He later worked at the "Worcester Daily Press" writing news and editorials and in 1873 became the telegraph editor of the "New Haven Register". Mr. Weaver became highly regarded for his terse pungent prose and was apparently highly quoted. In 1882 he worked for the "Boston Globe" as a political writer and on May 1, 1893 came to Hartford to work at the "Hartford Post" and then "The Courant". Contemporary accounts report that his insights and comments were very well received.

In June of 1901 he became superintendent of the Hartford schools. It was reported that "When he assumed charge of the school board office he carried the records from the office of his predecessor, Judge Herbert S. Bullard, to the board quarters in the First National Bank building, where the office remained until removed to a room in the building of the Connecticut Mutual Life Ins. Co. When the Municipal Building was erected (in 1915) the office went there. As superintendent Mr. Weaver signed diplomas for classes which graduated from high school. In 1900 the number was about 100. In 1919 it was about 350."

Mr. Weaver was on the Hartford Parks Commission and at one time served as its president.

Mr. Weaver died at his home at 35 Beacon Street on February 8, 1922 at the age of 77.

The city's newest high school was built in 1922 at 25 Ridgefield Street. It was named in tribute to Thomas Snell Weaver. (For a description of this school see the M.L. King Elementary School.) On June 21, 1924 a memorial tablet to Mr. Weaver was unveiled in the lobby of the Ridgefield Street School. Given by the teachers and school children of Hartford it was designed by Louis A. Goldenrod of Meriden.

In the late 1960's the Hartford Board of Education began planning for new modern school buildings including a new Bulkeley High School on Wethersfield Avenue and a new Weaver High School on Granby Street. The architects of both schools were Caudill Rowlett and Scott. The new Weaver High School has five floors and 382,250 square feet, to accommodate 2,600 students. Weaver High School opened on September 9, 1974.