

Commencement May 30, 2026

Sara Loudy was this year's Valedictorian, with a GPA of 4.000. She will study Business Administration at the University of Northwest Ohio in Lima.

There were three Salutatorians, each with a GPA of 3.99. They were **Elijah Worden**, who is attending Miami University and studying Music Performance, and maybe Engineering. **Landon Noble** accumulated many honors, is a Salutatorian, and will study Mechanical Engineering at Wright State University. **Kiera Lecklider** is the third Salutatorian and will major in Nursing at Miami University. (*pictured below*)

Left to Right: **Sara Loudy**, **Kiera Lecklider**, **Landon Noble**, and **Elijah Worden**.



New Graduates throwing their caps at the end of the ceremony (below):



Greenville High School has named **Jordan Miller**, Class of 2008, as its new principal following fifteen years in the Texas education system. Miller becomes the fifth GHS graduate in the school's history to lead his alma mater. Jordan is married to Dallas Fort Worth native, **Cynthia Miller**, and has a nine-year-old daughter named **Rylie**.

During his time at Greenville, Miller played baseball, tennis and football and served as manager for the girls' volleyball team. He went on to earn a business degree in telecommunications from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, with a focus on sales and promotion. After a year in the business world, he found the work unfulfilling. A friend's suggestion led him to an alternative certification program for teachers, and although the move to education meant a pay cut, he has found the work rewarding ever since.



Miller taught middle and high school English and Language Arts and worked extensively as an intervention specialist. Over the years, his work expanded to support English as a Second Language programs across 40 schools in the Dallas Fort Worth region, which serves large populations of students with diverse backgrounds. He found particular purpose in coaching teachers to connect more effectively with their students, and in working with children who struggle to believe in themselves or who face difficult life circumstances.

As principal, Miller will hire a new assistant principal to fill vacancy left after the departure of former principal **Stan Hughes**. Miller brings a range of experience to the role, having served as a teacher, an interventionist, and an administrator.

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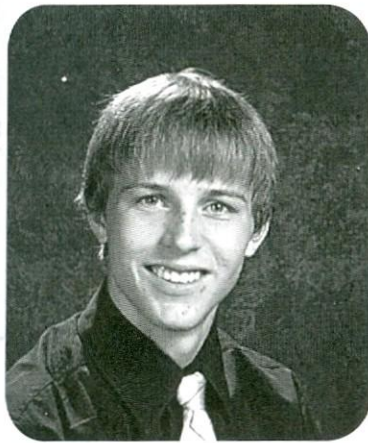
"I'm excited to be back, and I want to be a positive change agent, and help to maintain high-quality instruction for Greenville high school," Miller said. "Students in Greenville deserve a school that advocates for their success, provides opportunities and experiences to explore their interests, and requires that every student achieve excellence, every day."

Jordan is the son of **Jeff** and **Marla Miller**. Both Jeff and Marla are long time members of the Greenville community, including coaching volleyball at Greenville for many years. Jeff Miller currently works at Greenville Middle School. Jordan has a brother, **Hunter Miller** GHS 2012

The four previous GHS graduates to serve as principal were **Paul C. Warner** (Class of 1914, principal 1929–1954), **Jim Holzapfel** (Class of 1945, interim principal in 1976), **Dr. Steve Gruber** (Class of 1970, principal 1994–2000), and **Mike Shellabarger** (Class of 1977, principal 2002–2004).

*Editor's note: Miller's appointment, alongside that of Superintendent **Julie Jones** (Class of 1991), reflects the district's commitment to leadership rooted in the Greenville community. Both bring a hometown-first perspective and a genuine investment in the school system's continued growth.*

2008 Senior Photo Yearbook:



Jordan Miller

Senior Graduation with his mother Marla:



Jordan and Cynthia
Wedding >>



Little League
Photo >>>>>



East Enders: East School Student Memories



The Multipurpose auditorium/lunch room



Colorful chalkboard

In 2022, several East School alumni decided to start a Facebook group called the “**East Enders**” because they were “hooked on the memories of living in the East School district”. These leaders of this movement are **Nancy Lease Livingston Fletter** GHS 1971, **Becky Allread Moore** GHS 1968, and **Jean Hoover McLear** GHS 1970, with encouragement from others.

“I could not let go of my childhood,” says Nancy. “The neighborhood was very connected and you would see the same kids every year talking about their old days. You get to know your neighbors because you spent so much time with them.”

So, Nancy and Becky decided to get the East Enders together. As of mid-2025, there were 261 members signing up for this free grouping. Nancy and her family moved into the East School district from Versailles in 1959 when she was in the first grade. Her parents were **Sara Hawes Lease**, who was the niece of long-time GHS teacher of Industrial Arts and Boys Club founder, **Bob Hawes**, and daughter of **Francis Lease** GHS 1947. The Leases had a fruit stand business at the corner of Plum and Morrow Streets at 300 Morrow Street, and Francis had a band that played around our area. Great-great-grandfather Lease built Wakefield School and the family attended Wakefield Church on Greenville-Celina Road just north of Children’s Home-Bradford Road. Nancy’s siblings were **Ronnie Lease** GHS 1973, **Tim Lease** GHS 1978, and **Teresa Jackson** GHS 1981. Francis’ immediate family included **Betty Lease Brodrick** GHS 1948, **Robert Lease** GHS 1949, **Lewis Lease** GHS 1956, **Carol Jean Lease** GHS 1957 (who was killed in an auto accident in 1960), and **Marilyn Lease Fritz** GHS 1963.

The original High School was built in 1867 on West Fourth Street next to where the Memorial Hall is now. In 1884, a new proposed larger High School and part elementary school was built on East Fifth Street. This was the two-spired magnificent building that we thought of as East elementary school, but it was originally built as the High School. In 1903 Andrew Carnegie gave money to Greenville to build a **Carnegie Public Library** on the same block as the old High School building had been built. This original school was then known as the West elementary school. School Board members thought that the High School would be best situated near the Library for student use. So, the High School was returned to the undersized West School, and the East building became the elementary school that we knew about until 1948. The West (High) school was moved in 1909 to the west end of the block to make way for the **St. Clair Memorial**

Hall to be placed in the middle of the block. The old High School in this location was used from 1909 to 1923, until the next yellow, new High School building was built at the corner of West Fifth Street and Central Avenue. In 1962 the High School was built and classes moved into the City Park area where it is now.

The old East building was built using older construction techniques and was known to have a leaky roof in different spots by the 1920s. There were a lot of complaints about overcrowded conditions at the old school in the late 1940s. In May, 1948, the Ohio State Board of Education sent inspectors to examine the building. The building was deemed unsafe and unsuitable for school use. The Greenville School Board then condemned the building. The school board discussed the possibility of upgrading the building, but the renovation would have been too costly. The old building was torn down in 1948 and the new one built in 1949. The school bond issue passed 3,474 to 1,310 to build the new school building. The beginning of the 1948 and 1949 school years required students to be taught in remote locations, and at the beginning of the 1950 school year, the new building was opened. Students were temporarily housed at the Reformed Church at Sycamore and East Third Streets in 1949, and some classes at the Memorial Hall in 1950. The two-story addition for the higher grades on the west end of the building was finished for the beginning of the 1954 school year.



Kay Tilden Brown (class of 1933) recalled that when it rained, recess for all the students was held in the basement and, for years, there was a single ceiling light bulb for the students to provide light there during their recess time in this dingy basement. Some think that the basement was not used in later years because it became too dirty and crummy. Kay also remembered that a boy named **Diamond Nelson** was the “tough guy” at the East School building in the 1920s. As expected, he was not on the graduation list of those students who finished high school. There was a rumor, never verified, that there was a “paddling machine” in the basement that threatened the mental stability of the students in the building and may have helped to keep them in line. **Hance** and **Hester Hildebrand** were born in 1906 and 1907, and related many stories to their daughter **Margaret Hildbrand Manix** GHS 1959, about memorable experiences at the old building in the 1910s.

Karen Hoover Henninger GHS 1959 remembers the old slate sidewalks in front of the school on East Fifth Street and how smooth they were. This was perfect for roller skating and that skating produced a pleasing sound. The youngest students at the old building were on the first floor (first and second grade). The third and fourth grades were located on the second floor. The oldest students, fifth and sixth grades were on the top, third floor. The young students looked forward to “going upstairs” when their time would come.

Greenville’s most outstanding citizen of the last 50+ years, **Jim Buchy** GHS 1958, remembers a nightmare he suffered in the first grade. In the first grade in 1947, a heavy rainstorm in the town led to a large water puddle in the recess area behind the old school building. Kids were allowed to go outside after the rain stopped, and Jim and a friend or two went into the yard and jumped into a puddle that was larger than they thought. Jim’s clothes were

all wet from his “puddle jumping”. Mr. Maxwell, Principal, called Jim to his Office and paddled him. Then the Assistant principal Lowell Bowers also paddled Jim. When he went home, his mother found out about this and paddled him at home. When his father came home and asked Jim how his school day went, his father also paddled him. Four paddlings in one day was a dubious record and he never got paddled again after that day.

Nancy Brown Warner GHS 1954, remembers and was proud of the fact that her mother **Mabel Brown** was the head cafeteria cook at East for many years. Most students also enjoyed the cooking of the cafeteria staff. GHS long-time vocal music legend **Miss Elizabeth Hill** taught from 1930 to 1968 at the High School, and she liked



Nancy’s mother’s cooking so much that she came to East School to eat lunch every day because she liked Mrs. Brown’s cooking better at East than what was offered at the High School building.

Nancy also remembers when the students got their vaccination shots in the old school in their younger years and the town nurse **Sue Jefferies** would come to the school and administer shots for smallpox, polio, chicken pox, and maybe others. Students would stand in line in the cloak closet, which was part of a classroom and Mrs. Jefferies would give shots to all the kids, while many kids in line were crying in anticipation of the event.

The youngest person to be documented as “playing hooky” from the East School student family was **Joel Williams** GHS 1962. “For Kindergarten, in September, 1949, I went to the Memorial Hall. It was there I played hooky on the second day of school,” said Joel remembering in 2025. “We lived at 136 Central Avenue directly across from the High School’s front entrance. My mother, **Ondalee Fisher Williams** GHS 1934, watched me cross the street to the high school grounds, and expected me to continue around the High School to the Memorial Hall. I had other plans and stopped short to play with my toy cars and trucks in the bushes and dirt outside the High School.” The first day of school she walked him to the Memorial Hall and thought he could do it again on the second day. What she didn’t know is that Joel had taken some of his toy cars to the High School building across the street the night before. He was having a good time until school officials reported him missing and his mother tracked down her child playing hooky.

Many East school students would come uptown after the 3:15 school bell. With several places with lunch counters, everyone was familiar with this trend. McGreevey’s, Engelken’s, Central Drug Store, the Hamburger Shop, and the Green Villa all saw many of these students at their lunch counters and after the school day ended. **Jeff Hawley** GHS 1969, would visit the Central soda fountain after school, and he quickly realized that there was more to drink in two nickel Cokes than there was in one dime Coke. So, he filled up both his hands. These lunch counters served the whole community since fast food restaurants didn’t exist and other suburban locations were very few. They were famous for breakfasts, soda, phosphates, magazines, candy bars, and a large menu. Many adults worked on Broadway in businesses located on the three floors on most of Broadway’s establishments, so these lunch counters were busy all day long. The Central had a staff of constantly changing high school girls working part-time jobs and serving the customers under the leadership of **Sadie Flory**. Many homemade foods were prepared daily to bring to the store, with grilled cheese and tomato soup being quite popular. The head cook was **Treva O’Neil** who was known for the barbecue sandwiches and potato salad that



she made for the Central Drug Store's lunch counter. Sometimes Treva's young relatives would come along to **Pete Brown's** (GHS 1932) house at 218 W. Fourth Street, to play with Dick. He remembers **Sammy Nagy** and **Johnny Moores** GHS 1962 often accompanying Treva. Later she had her own restaurant called the Martin Street Restaurant at 201 Martin Street, at the corner of Martin Street and Gray Avenue, with homemade foods serving the public. She was the mother of future Greenville **Mayor Jack Harless**. McDonald's did not come to town until 1974, so the community had a completely different mindset and citizens mostly ate uptown. Before the 1958 remodeling at the Central, there were about 8 large booths in the back of the store where at least 6 or more kids could sit after school and enjoy cokes or snacks.

Two doors down the Green Villa was a similar lunch counter as the Central, but they had small jukeboxes at each of the tables that the kids could play songs for a nickel or a dime. The most played song during a period of 1960-1961 was "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" until the record wore out.

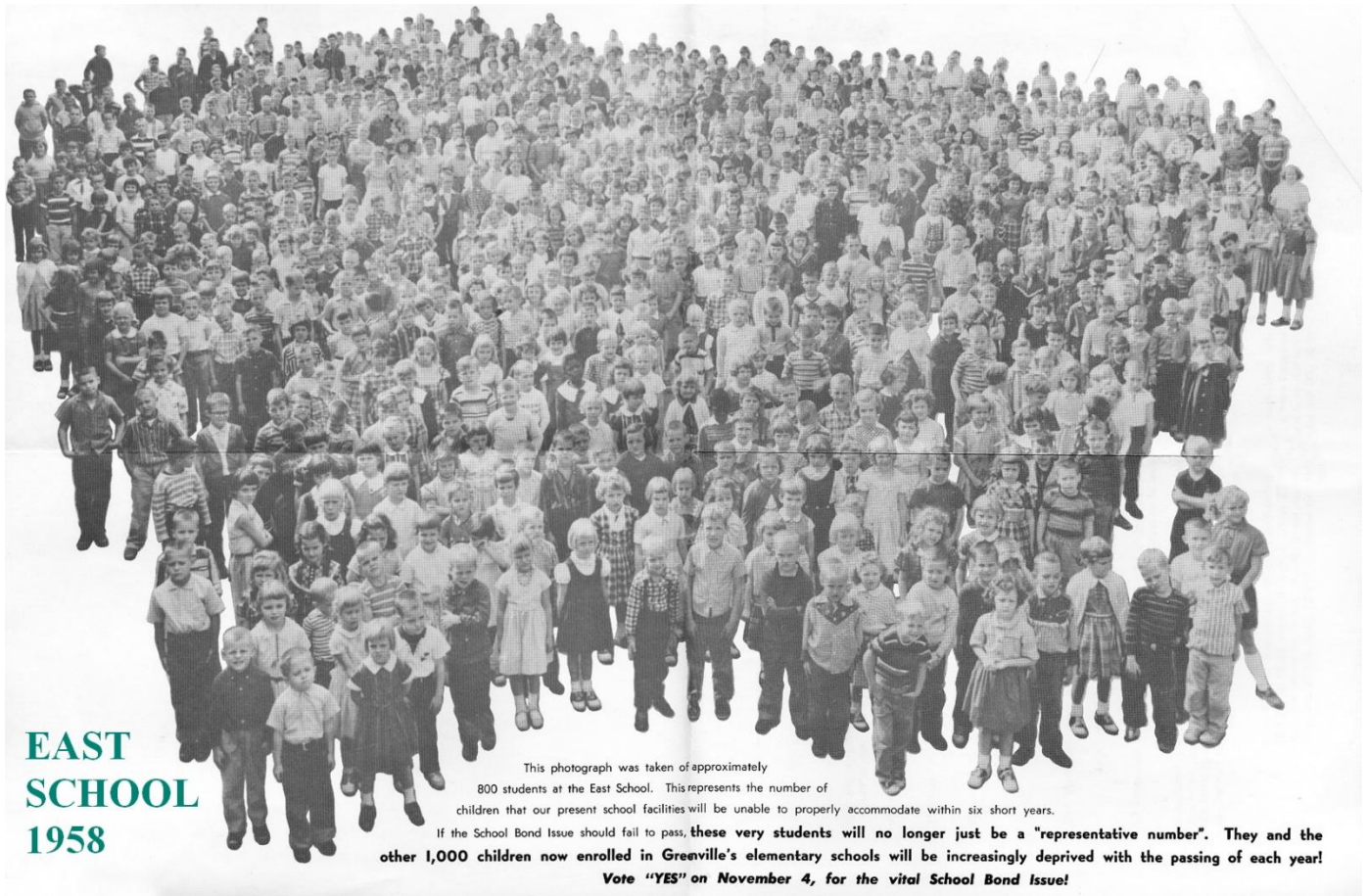
Others would remember going to the Squirt bottling building, a half block north of the school on Locust Street. In the summertime, thirsty East Enders would stop by and ask, "Can we get a free bottle of Squirt?" They were usually not disappointed. There was always the Dairy Maid on East Third Street at Walnut, for your ice cream fix after school and on weekends.

The Hamburger Shop at the corner of Martin Street and Broadway was famous for their frosty or Coke and 25 cent hamburgers. One time, a sign said "5 cent hamburgers".

Some remember the free swimming at the City Pool from 10:00 to 11:30 each Wednesday morning in the summers. Then the kids would go to the State Theater for kiddie shows that were free to kids who had gotten a ticket at the Warren Street Market or Central Drug Store. Some of those afternoon matinees would feature cartoons, westerns, "Ma and Pa Kettle", "Little Rascals", "Spanky and Our Gang" shows, and other kid-approved features. The theater was nearly full since this was a good free event to pass time for the youth.

It was generally thought that the railroad tracks divided the East and South school districts. It was so for much of the time, but at some time around 1960 some students north of the tracks and east of Washington Avenue attended East School. The **Fisher** family (**Bob, Jane, Robbie, Cindy, Jason** and **Rick**) always lived on Cypress Street with the kids attending East School, and when the East building became overcrowded, they along with some other families were re-districted to the less crowded South building. That family lived in the same house at 408 Cypress Street from the late 1940s until Bob died in 2011 and Jane in 2012.

The Purtee Grocery was located in the 300 block of Vine Street, and the family that owned the business lived in the building. Elmer Hansbarger operated an insurance company also on Vine Street. The old St. Mary's School was torn down in 1956 and the new one built in 1957. The old playground at the old school was a favorite of those East school students who lived in the west part of town. They had high swings that would "reach for the sky".



**EAST
SCHOOL
1958**

This photograph was taken of approximately 800 students at the East School. This represents the number of children that our present school facilities will be unable to properly accommodate within six short years.

If the School Bond Issue should fail to pass, these very students will no longer just be a "representative number". They and the other 1,000 children now enrolled in Greenville's elementary schools will be increasingly deprived with the passing of each year!

Vote "YES" on November 4, for the vital School Bond Issue!



One remembrance of 1950 was on May Day, May 1, 1950, when Kindergarten students in **Mrs. Libby Maxwell's** classroom weaved around a May pole each holding multicolored streamers. They crossed each other's paths and created a memory that lasted forever. This activity might have also been done on the playground around a pole. The Kindergarten classes in the early 1950s were either morning or afternoon half days for all these students. Each student took a nap on a rolled-up blanket on the floor as part of their daily routine. These students probably brought their own blanket or rug. Mrs. Maxwell would have Kindergarten Circus many years that she taught Kindergarten with the tallest boy in each class being the Ring Master. In 1951-52 that leader was **Kris "Kim" Garrison** GHS 1964. All the students dressed in homemade outfits of clowns, circus actors, monkeys and other animals, that were mostly made by their mothers. There was a separate playground with a surrounding brick wall (about four feet high). But when you are a small child, this becomes a hard the climb-over. **Barb Hayes Fletcher**

GHS 1971 entered the walled playground after hours one day when no one was around. When she found it was hard to get back over the wall, she kept trying to shimmy up the wall until she was successful. Barb was relieved to get out without anybody knowing about it, because her mother **Lenora Marker Hayes** GHS 1947, told her not to ever do that. Barb was allowed to go only on the Montgomery Street side half of the playground so her mother could see her. **Nancy Lease Livingston Fletter** GHS 1971 found herself stranded one evening inside the playground. She cried and waited for three boys to walk by on Green Street. She heard their voices, called for help, and one boy jumped the wall and pushed Nancy up and the other two boys pulled her over the wall.

One of the enticements of “jumping the Kindergarten wall” after school hours was that the merry-go-round in this Kindergarten play yard was remembered as one of the fastest rotating ones around---faster than the one in the City Park. Another use for this playground yard was as a “baseball stadium”. When **Roland Brinley** GHS 1963 was about five years old (c.1950), he and some friends would jump the kindergarten wall and play baseball in “the stadium” with each batter trying to hit a ball over the wall. They were pretty young, so those homeruns became a challenge. Roland and **R.J. Allread** GHS 1960 lived on East Third and East Fourth Streets back-to-back and would throw baseballs to each other from one yard, over the garages that were in between to the other person.

In their younger years **Dave King** GHS 1962 lived on 11th St. around the corner from fellow classmate, **Ron Pipenger** GHS 1962. They took turns hitting golf balls straight up into the air with a baseball bat and had to be sure the balls did not land on their heads. They also hit tennis balls over the houses toward and over Martin Street. They also sledded down the hill on 11th Street from where it meets Hart Ave. sloping down to the east on Markwith Ave. Constant watch was needed to not get hit by a passing car on Markwith.

Miss Catherine Mannix GHS 1916 taught second grade from 1933 to 1958. She gathered clothes that people would donate, and her mission was to give them to the children at the Children’s Home. **Miss Catherine Katzenberger** GHS 1921, taught sixth grade. She was never married and took many trips, often to Mexico, during the summer collecting tiny things. During the school year, she would sell these tiny items to her students. Miss Katzenberger and her student **Bob Nixon** GHS 1960 shared the same birthday and in Bob’s school year in her classroom, Miss Katzenberger held two cakes in that the classroom for a picture and was able to make a feast for those students.

Teachers of the 1940s-1960s era were a little tougher on their students. **Miss Pearl Elliott** GHS 1906, taught fifth grade on and off from 1933 to 1970, and did not allow her students to chew gum in class. She would ask a student she suspected of this act, “Are you chewing gum?” The culprit was always a guilty party, and she would take him/her outside the building and slap him/her across the cheek until the gum came out. Other students, seeing this would panic and either swallow their gum or put it inside their clothes. Miss Elliott lived to age 100. Some teachers would use wooden 12” rulers with metal strips and strike students’ hands leaving marks if they were deemed to be doing something wrong. Teachers also threw students around. One girl was tossed into her seat by a teacher who thought that girl was taking too long to take her long underpants off. She was a small-built girl and is mentioned in this article. At this time



Our "New" East School, 1949 - 2017



girls had to wear dresses but in cold weather they wore long pants under the dresses to keep warm on their way to school. Don't dilly dally.....

Miss Kitt Townsend GHS 1899, taught geography from 1902-1947, one of the longest lasting Greenville school teachers, with some being in high school and some being in elementary school. She also never was married and would spend her summers taking vacations to various countries and adding to her extensive doll collection. Much of this collection is permanently displayed in the Garst Museum Village Shops wing. These dolls are all antiques now and are a good record of history that you can see at the Museum.

During the 1950s the janitor at East School was **Forrest "Gene" Marker**, who was well known by all the students. His jovial manner was enjoyed by all and he was a friend of all the students. Gene was known for calling square dancing at the school, and was an accomplished musician who played viola and cello in local bands. Gene's parents, **Henry** and **Forrest Marker** were janitors at the High School building, and his brother **Burdette Marker** was janitor at South School. Gene, Burdette and sister Lenora were all students at GHS in the 1940s during the World War II years. The halls seemed so large when the elementary students were there but the halls seemed a lot smaller when you became an adult. Many classrooms had small toilets in a closet for kids with an emergency need.

Tony DiRocco was Phys. Ed teacher in the late 1950s. He taught this at all the elementary buildings. Tony entered into a business to design football mouthpieces for high school teams all around the country. **Joel Williams** said in his sophomore year (1959), the Green Wave team used these experimental mouthpieces to find a perfected finished piece. The first ones created were easy to chew through so perfections were made. This business was successful for a while.

Herbert Shelley taught fifth grade in the late 1950s but his teaching career was cut short because his multiple sclerosis disease advanced, and he taught only from 1953 to 1961. **Miss Margaret Snyder** (later married Nevin White about 1954-55) had twins in her class, a boy and a girl, in the 1949-1950 school year, and the boy hanged himself down by the Greenville Creek. Do you remember **Mrs. Bernice Gamble** teaching music, and was followed by **Mrs. Agnes Heath**? Do you remember **Mrs. Jewell Cornett** teaching sixth grade, and she was a disciplinarian? In 1958-59, **Mr. Phillip Lauver** taught seventh grade social studies, **Mr. Jack Raudabaugh** taught math, and **Mrs. Grace Schmidt** taught English. Do you remember the rustling sound of the lady teachers' hose as they walked across the room and rubbed together? Do you remember **Mrs. Locklear** and **Mrs. Markey** teaching art at different times? **Mr. Mike Willman** teaching science? **Mrs. Bessie Beatty** teaching fourth and fifth grades? **Mr. Fred McKee** teaching sixth grade from 1951 to 1953? Do you remember **Merle Frantz** (class of 1964 but did not finish), swinging on the fluorescent light fixtures which hung from the ceiling in the new two-story part of the school seventh grade? When Mrs. Schmidt came into her room and witnessed this, she could not have been madder. Merle was banished for some time.

The old iron bridge crossing the Greenville Creek at East Fourth Street was one of the last of this old-style metal-box style structure. Our GHS Brain Bee team in 1963-64 was pictured on this bridge. At this same spot, there was a bicycle and walking path along the Creek from Martin Street to East Main Street, and it was quite rough, with coasting stretches, and was treacherous with many tree roots to dodge, but all East Enders knew how to traverse it. This was a great

pastime. There was also a junk yard at the corner of East Fourth Street and Tecumseh Street, backing up to the Creek, and your writer remembers taking bundles of newspapers there to sell for petty cash. In 1970, an 11-year old girl (who was in the Class of 1977) was killed along this path immediately behind the junk yard. The killer had been convicted of a crime earlier in his life, and after the crime, he was institutionalized due to his mental capacity. After he was released, he moved to Indiana and later attacked a woman there. He was again institutionalized, but this time in Indiana. He died there at a later time.

Out of all the elementary schools, East had a much larger enrollment than all the others (North, South, Washington Twp., Woodland Heights, and St. Mary's). It reached from Oxford Drive to the north, railroad tracks to the south, and the full west and east sides. One picture taken of the 800 students at the East building in 1958 was taken from above the one-story part of the building across from the Principal's Office.

Long-time GHS teacher **Walter Morrison** lived in the stucco house opposite the YMCA now where the Ohio State Highway Patrol office was in the 1950s. Their children, **John** GHS 1958 and **Alice Ann** GHS 1962 were born at that house but they moved near the East School at 430 East Fifth Street for the kids' school years. During the 1950s Walter built their family ranch style home on Delaware Drive directly behind the State Patrol Office on a vacant lot that the Morrisons owned. **Sharon Doss Wintrow** GHS 1962 remembers a day in Mr. Shelley's class that classmate **Alice Ann Morrison** got a comb stuck in her tangled hair during class time that could not be remedied, and Mr. Shelley said, "I think you oughta go home and get that straightened out." Alice Ann lived quite close to the school (across the street), and since her father was a teacher and she was well known and respected, she was given the liberty to go home and get it untangled. A school celebrity can't go around with ratted hair!!

Groups of friends would attend the Greenville Skating Rink on Sater Street together. This was a fun place to mingle and hear music while getting exercise. Another gathering place was **Jim** (GHS 1966) and **Vicky Holland's** (GHS 1970) house at 232 Laurel Street. It was not a big house, but the kids liked to go there.

Red Rover was a commonly played game along the Green Street side of the school building. It was a classic outdoor game played at that time by children. Two teams form lines facing each other, holding hands to create a human chain. One team called out a player from the opposing team saying, "Red Rover, Red Rover, send (player's name) right over!" If the player breaks through the opposing team's chain, they get to take a player back to their team. If they fail to break through, they join the opposing team. The game continues until all players are on one side. One boy flipped over and broke his arm playing red rover, probably trying to get through the chain line. As soon as recess time started, boys would chase the girls out onto the playground. During one of those stampedes, **Gloria Stump Hahn** GHS 1958 fell and cut her head and had to be taken to the hospital in a taxi, to get fixed up. This was due to the excitement of getting out of class to go onto the playground for recess. War ball was played indoors in the Multipurpose Room in gym class, throwing a red playground ball at players across the floor to hit them with the ball and eliminate them from their team. This was a favorite game of Mr. DiRocco. Everyone was eliminated to determine the winning team. A Hopscotch court was drawn on the pavement in chalk at different times for students to play. Also, marbles were played on the playground down

on the ground with kids bringing their marbles (half inch to one-and-a-half-inch diameter size) to play and hoping to win some marbles from other players. You would use a larger marble (large spherical glass marble), a “shooter”, to flip with your thumb to hit another smaller “duck” marble. Then you could win that marble. Or, marbles were shot into a circle drawn on the ground. Competitors would try to knock opponent’s marbles out of the circle. Winners had the most glass marbles left inside the circle. Silver Steelies were the prized shooters and were made of a metal. “Cat’s eyes” were glass marbles with a swirl of a different color visible in the whole mostly clear unit and had a three-dimensional look. Many marbles games are played on boards or with cards but the games at East School 70 years ago were played on the blacktop. “Keepsies” means that the kid gets to keep the marbles they win. Along with marbles was the game of “Jacks”, where you would throw down one, then two, then three jacks and bounce a ball and pick up the number of jacks on the ground before the ball “came back to earth”, when the playground had black top. The playground was all gravel at earlier times and there was a softball diamond located at the southeast corner of the playground, near the alley and Green Street corner. This must have been early in the 1950s because some kids don’t remember it. A softball team picture is included in the 1952-53 East School Easterner Yearbook with kids that were later in the 1959 and 1960 classes.

William T. “Bill” Maxwell was longtime East School Principal, following the earlier Principal **Lowell Bowers** GHS 1930, who later became South School Principal. Mr. Bowers was also an Assistant Principal while Mr. Maxwell was Principal at East. Maxwells lived at 125 Green Street at Tiffin, across the street from the school. He kept his car license “125UV” for 60 years after he left that residence and moved to the 200 block of Chippewa Drive, remembering their earlier home’s address, 125.

The old High School (1924-1962) had two grades on each of the three floors until 1959. Seventh and eighth grades were on the first floor, ninth and tenth grade were on the second floor, and eleventh and twelfth grade were on the third floor. In 1959, the seventh and eighth grades were moved back to the elementary schools except East School eighth grade, which was kept on the top floor of the high school. **Mr. Otho Morton** GHS 1929 and **Mrs. Mary Raach** were the two East school teachers here. It was kept at the high school because East School was out of space to handle any more kids. Mr. Morton gave fact tests in History class with as many facts as you could write down in a test period. Mrs. Raach had a Horton Club for 100% spellers.

Christian Education took the form of Bible School after the regular school day was over in 1949 and 1950. This was held in the normal classrooms but students had to have permission from their parents to attend. Later in the middle 1950s, a Christian Education teacher came into East school during the day to teach classes. **Miss Carolyn Bennett** (later married **Philip Munger** about 1965, Boy Scout leader. He died in 1966 at age 35. They had a daughter **Sharon Munger** GHS 1983). Miss Bennett was the first designated Christian Education teacher at East. Certain kids from families of other religions, such as Jehovah’s Witness, were stationed in the hallway during religious class time.

Susan Brewer Schaar GHS 1959 remembered that two or three girls would work in the cafeteria in the 1950s as helpers for three-week shifts. They would help serve the students coming through the food line. Lunches at the school cost 25 cents in the 1950s and milks cost



1951 (above)



The "Old" East School, 1884 – 1948 (below) Post Card from 1910



two cents. The uptown was so close that some kids could go there to eat instead of eating school lunches. The Cul-Mor Tea Room, across West Fourth Street from the Courthouse, was a successful cafeteria used by many people who worked in the city central district, and some students. Some students worked here in their high school years, including **Connie Hoover Weatherford** GHS 1956. **Bob** and **Evelyn Hoover** lived at 535 East Fifth Street at Morrow Street, along with their kids **Connie, Karen** and **Jean**. They were one of the first families to get their swimming pool season pass cards annually, and they obtained the pass #001 card many years. The Gray family some years got there first and got pass #001.

In the 1958-61 period, **Mr. Bob Kolp**, who was Clerk for the Board of Education, also held dance classes at North School on Thursday nights about 7:00 to 8:00, but they were open to all students in all Greenville schools. Students learned ballroom dancing and it was split into two semesters per year and was mostly for eighth graders. The gymnasium would be surrounded with perhaps 50 to 100 folding chairs for an equal number of boys and girls. He would teach kids how to dance the waltz, cha-cha-cha, tango, fox-trot, rumba, and maybe other moves. Boys would dance with the girls because they would all be in attendance. There was a Grand Ball held at the end of the session. As for me, I remember one held at Greenville Township School, which became Woodland Heights School. Each boy and girl would have a card with 10 or 12 spaces and each person would go ask a partner to join in certain dances. Everyone had to fill their card with different partners. In a separate dance situation, the **Rainbow Girls** would sponsor dances and ask the boys to come to them. This was special for Junior High students.

Terry Hartnagle GHS 1967 remembers that in **Mrs. Louise Miles** fifth grade class, the students' favorite recess activity was playing kickball. The first one out the door onto the playground got to be the first kicker. Terry found a way to get to the head of the line. He climbed out a window first (the room was located on the ground level), and he could become first in the kickball line. After the teacher realized this movement, Terry's sneaky plan was ended.

Susan Allread Barker GHS 1994 remembers fifth grade teacher **Mr. David Westfall** GHS 1976 preparing his class January 28, 1986, for the launch of the first teacher in space. School kids all over the country were tuned in to a TV monitor on the audio-video cart wheeled into their classrooms to watch history being made. They did projects leading up to this event to involve students into this epic time for the country, and everyone was so horrified at what was seen on the TV screen. Susan also remembers in the fourth or fifth grade when the East School classes attended "star programs" on Fridays. These were small excursions to local spots, like a bowling alley.

One of the best known and visited businesses uptown was Murphy's, with its two double-door entrances and creaky wood flooring. They had clothes in glass cases and scoop candy that was weighed and put into white bags. Colored chicks, ducks and sometimes turtles were sold upstairs and more pets and toys were located in the basement. When **Ed Trostle** was store manager, he allowed **Nancy Lease Livingston** to expand this pet area while she worked there (1969-71 as part of her DECA program). They sold fish in six aquarium tanks, parakeets and canaries, pairs of finches and parrots, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, chameleons, and baby Cayman alligators. This department was allowed to expand while Nancy worked there, but Mr. Trostle discontinued

it after she graduated from High School and left. No one else would have had as much dedication to the animals as Nancy did and Ed knew that.

Phil Lauver was a favorite teacher of many. He taught seventh and eighth grade Social Studies but only from 1957 to 1962, then moved away. **Fred Foutz** GHS 1964 remembers that Mr. Lauver nominated him to attend the private high school preparatory school, Phillips Exeter Academy, in Exeter, NH. This school still exists and is a 9th to 12th grade coeducational boarding school with a low percentage of applicants being admitted even today, and is very expensive. Fred's parents turned down this idea for him to attend. Mr. Lauver was a good, dedicated teacher, but no one knows whatever happened to him.

Fred also mentioned that almost every night in the summer, a sizeable group of athletic boys got together on the East School playground to play basketball. They were amongst the better players seventh grade players in this 1957-59 time period. Regulars included **Wayne McNutt**, **Jerry Doss**, **Phil Ungericht**, **Phil Franklin**, **Kim Garrison**, **Jan Jasenski** and **Fred Foutz**, all GHS 1964. The starters on that 8th grade team the next year were the ones underlined above with Jan and Fred being the guards and Kim playing center. Jan was quite acrobatic and did flips on the playground.

In the 1950s, a boy, believed to be in the third grade, was struck in the throat near his Adam's Apple at recess while playing baseball and died from this injury. He lived on East Fourth Street and the funeral was held at his home. Neighboring parents brought food to their home.

On a fateful day in 1957, three sixth grade boys skipped school and took their BB-guns onto Sebring-Warner Road in the woods below the Olwine's trailer court. They shot birds and at each other. The next day back at school, Mr. **Jack Raudabaugh** paddled these three: **Lewis Maloy**, **Paddy Canan**, and **Fred Foutz**, all Class of 1964.

Other quick memories of these years:

>>Clodhoppers were large, heavy, work shoes, like boots were popular in the 50s.

>>10 cent per pound tomatoes were available at Eatmore Markets on Broadway.

>>Hemer's restaurant, catering and ice cream store was located in the Lohmann building on 304 Sycamore St. and W. Main St.

>>Viotor-Huston's grocery was located at 613 S. Broadway in the middle of the last block on the east side of the street, before they moved to their new location at the south end of town on Sweitzer St. just below the Fairgrounds in 1957. Mabel's Toy Fair moved into this location after Viotor-Huston's moved.

>>**Robert** and **Mabel Roller** from Piqua owned Mabel's Toy Fair, 613 S. Broadway, from 1958 to 1964, and left Greenville after their daughter **Suzanne Roller** GHS 1964 graduated from GHS. This was a favorite location for girls to buy their Barbie dolls.

>>Randall's Ice House on Plum Street just behind **Glenna Randall's** (Class of 1964) house on E. Fifth St. at the corner, served many of the uptown businesses with lunch counters by supplying large blocks of ice.

>>**Bill Haworth** had a restaurant just outside town on Dayton Road at Eidson Rd. in the 1950s and was one the few eateries outside the downtown area. When Bill moved his restaurant backon

Broadway in the 400 block, and later the 300 block, the Owl Drugs store was next door. Later it was the Wise Owl variety store, but not really a drug store.

>>**Floyd Gilpin** was manager of the Moore's Store in the 400 block of Broadway on the west side was a double wide variety store. Later it became Duffey's 2.

>>**Ernie Myers** Ford dealership was located in the second block of Martin Street when car dealers had much smaller car lots and maintenance/showroom buildings.

>>Suter's meat market was a staple on Broadway for nearly 100 years, in the 600 block.

>>**John Rodeheffer** (Class of 1962) was the son of the Methodist Church pastor **Cal Rodeheffer**. John had a dog named Cinders in the 1950s, who was named after all the coal cinders which fell onto all the sidewalks of houses within several blocks of the railroad tracks five blocks south of W. Fourth St. This is from the time that coal-burning engines were used for the trains passing through town on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

>>The Boys Club and a bowling alley were located on the second floor of Rodefild's Auto building on Walnut at Sixth St. at different times.

>>A Coal yard was located along the railroad tracks between Gray and Hiddeson Avenues.

>>Turricchi's Bar and Restaurant in the first block south of the circle was a popular place to eat, It later became Huber's. They had good potato salad which Eikenberry's Grocery carried. Eikenberry's was located at this time on Sater St. and Harrison Ave.

>>McGreevey's Drug Store had a familiar soda fountain. I remember chocolate cokes.

>>Engelken's Drug Store had a lunch counter, too, and was bought by **Ron and Richard "Bud" Bonfiglio** in the late 1950s. Many high school kids worked part time here.

>>Two other Drug Stores on Broadway were Gallagher's and Whitecotton's at the circle. Most uptown stores were closed on Sundays, but alternating one drug store each Sunday would stay open to always be able to service emergency drug needs of the citizens.

>>Purtee Grocery was located on Vine Street and the owners lived in the same building.

>>Elmer Hansbarger had an insurance business on Vine Street. Vine was still East School district.

>>The elevator man in the Palace would take the same kids up to the third floor repeated times after they walked down the two flights, before going up again. This was a popular activity for kids with little money.

>>It took only 25 cents to go to Murphy's and buy a Christmas present for someone.

>>Pete Weaver's Bicycle Shop was located in the alley in an enlarged garage behind Markwith Avenue, and was a favorite of about every kid growing up in Greenville.

>>Grade cards were not distributed to students until they fully paid for the lunches. You had to hope that you were not demoted back to the school year before the one you just finished. Failing would have been just repeating the year you just finished.

>>The old Catholic School yard had a great playground for those living in the west end. The swings went very high at that gravel playground. The old Catholic building was torn down in 1956 and new one built in 1957. This playground was perfectly located for those "West enders East enders."

Joy Johnson Bowers GHS 1958 remembers one reason that East School kids always wanted to stay connected. They were inclusive if a child moved in from another school. Everyone was included in parties that were held that involved our students. In later years, spouses are also welcomed into the “East School Family” and we hope that comradery will continue.

East Enders founder, Nancy Livingston Fletter, operates a music business in 2025 called Memory Lane Music. She is a one-person band and plays the oldies of the 1960s-‘70s time period and plays at venues a couple times a month and is very entertaining for this style of music. You can reach her at: 937-423-4772, or n.livi@hotmail.com

East Enders originator,
Nancy Lease Livingston Fletter GHS 1971 (right), and her one-person band called, Memory Lane Music (far right), where she plays oldies familiar to “Baby Boomers” in public venues. Here she played at the Moose, in May, 2025. >>>>>



On July 5, 2026, part of the Greenville City Independence Day musical celebration held at the City Park included patriotic musical pieces from **Darrell Grosch** GHS 1972, **Nancy**, and **Jana Lease** GHS 1984. This photo is from July 5. *Right >>>>>*



Nancy says anyone can be a member of the “East Enders” if you completed at least one year at the East building or lived in the district between 1884 and 2016. Spouses are also included if they didn’t attend or qualify. Teachers are honorary members.

Many of these memories of years gone by are typical of those times. So, even if you were not an East School alumnus, this might stir some of your memories.

