



GRAND AVENUE HIGH SCHOOL

Alma Mater

**Hail to Thee O Alma Mater
From our hearts and soul,
Proud we love and feel much greater
as the years unfold!
Your true colors Blue and Gold
Shine for all to see,
we your students brave and bold
wave triumphantly!**



History of the Black Schools In The South



In 1919, the Rosenwald School for African Americans in DeQuincy was constructed. It was largely funded by the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

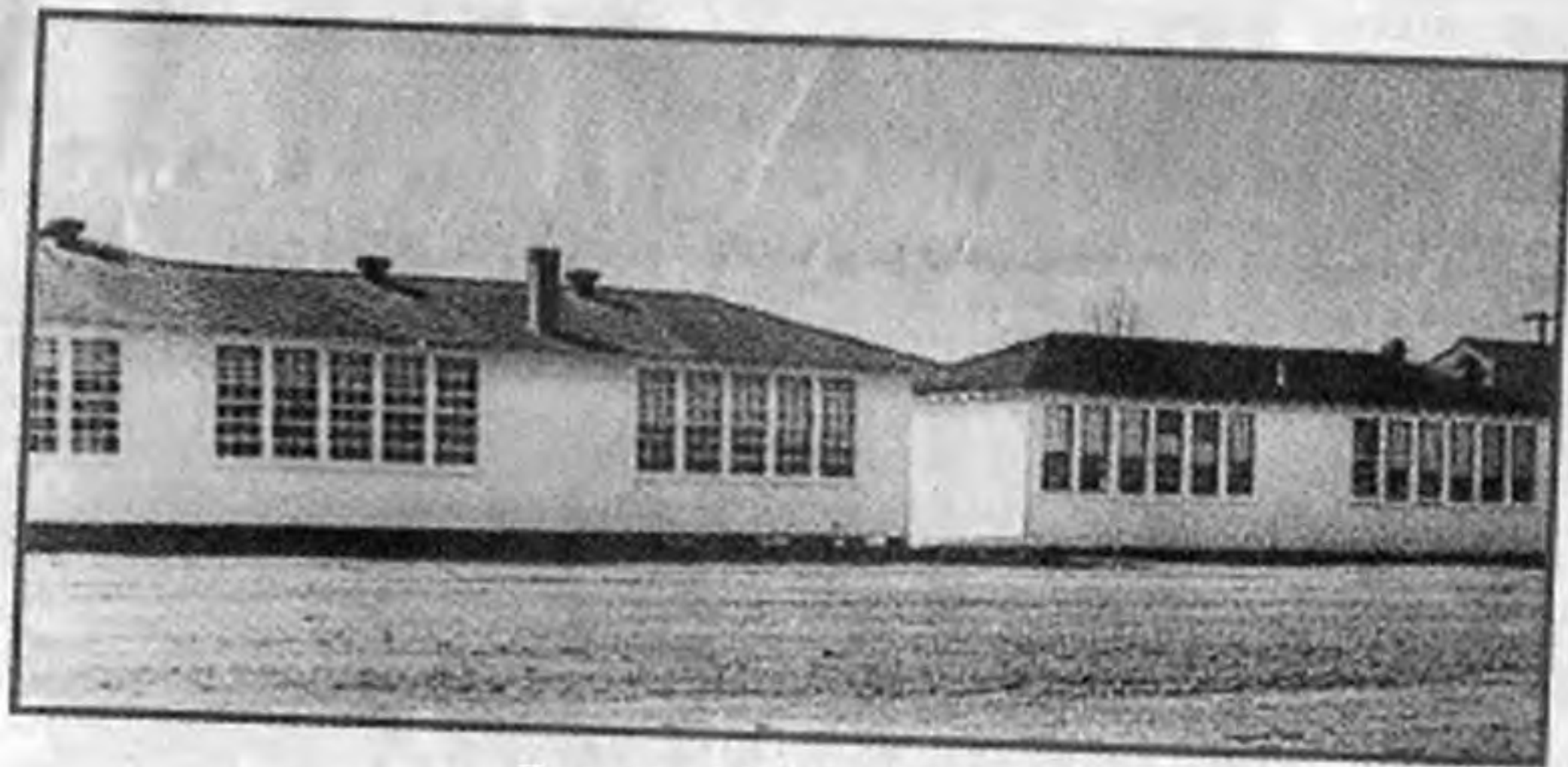
This fund came to fruition after the 1906 financial reorganization of Sears, Roebuck and Company; when the Chicago philanthropist, Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, became friends with a Goldman Sachs's senior partner, Paul J. Sachs. The two would discuss America's social situation, agreeing that the plight of African-Americans was the most serious in the United States. Aware of the sad state of education among African-Americans in the rural South, Sachs introduced Rosenwald to two prominent educators and proponents of African-American education, William H. Baldwin and Booker T. Washington. Rosenwald and Washington quickly became associates.

Dr. Washington, who was an ex-slave and famed educator, encouraged Rosenwald, as he had many others, to address the poor state of education of African-Americans in the United States.

In 1912, the vision of this unlikely partnership began to materialize, when Rosenwald provided funds for the development of several small schools in rural Alabama. Later, in 1917, Julius and his family established the Rosenwald Fund for the "well-being of mankind". Using state-of-the-art architectural plans designed by professors at Tuskegee Institute, the Fund spent more than four million dollars and provided seed grants for the construction of more than 5,300 buildings, which included 4,977 schools, 217 teachers' homes, and 163 shop buildings in 15 states, from Maryland to Texas.

The Rosenwald Fund used a system of matching grants – meaning, that if a rural black community could scrape together a contribution, and if the white school board would agree to operate the facility, Rosenwald would contribute cash—usually about one-fifth of the total project. Black communities raised more than \$4.7 million to aid in construction. By 1932, the facilities could accommodate one-third of all African-American children in Southern schools. A total of 435 schools were built in Louisiana.



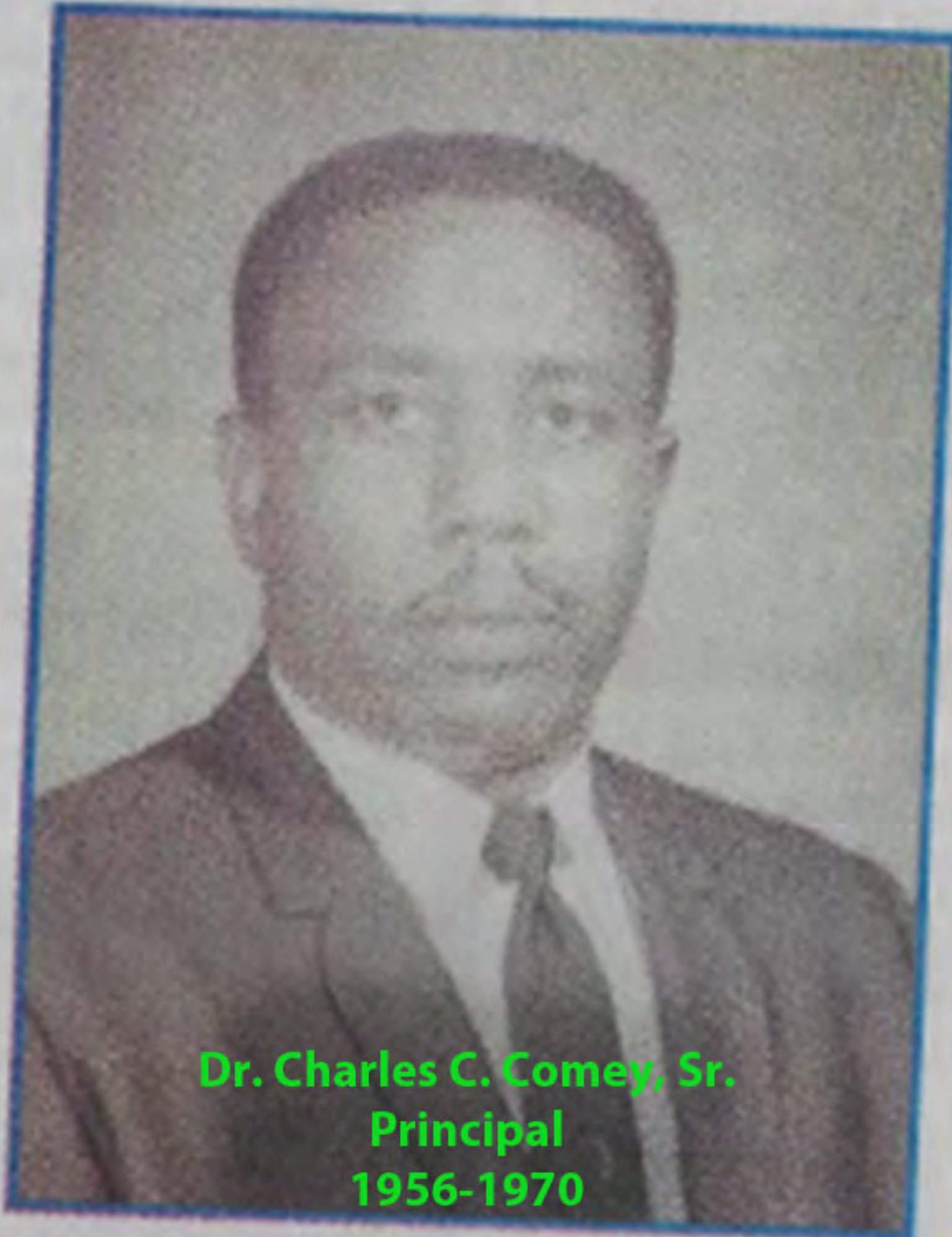


Rosenwald School 1949

1950-1970



THE 1967 FACULTY of Grand Avenue was a group of educators that included professionals from Pioneer, Rosenwald and DeQuincy colored schools in DeQuincy. Many former students, teachers, friends and family members were expected to attend the biannual reunion.
(Special to the American Press)

A black and white portrait of a man with short, dark hair, wearing a suit and tie. The photo is framed by a blue border.

Dr. Charles C. Comey, Sr.
Principal
1956-1970



History of the Black Schools In DeQuincy, Louisiana

Information obtained on the history of schools for "Colored" children in DeQuincy indicates that the first school began at Evergreen Baptist Church some time in 1917. The first teachers were (no more than one at a time), Mrs. Beatrice Lemons and Mrs. Williams, both from New Orleans, and Mrs. Sadie Chiser.

January 7, 1919: Patrons asked for a school building for Negro (Black) Students. Mr. Briscoe was instrumental in obtaining land for this purpose (the present Eldridge homestead).

January 11, 1919: Plans were accepted for one and two room buildings. One building was moved to the land site from Houston River. In the 1950's and 1960's students affectionately called this building "The Sugar Shack". A second building was moved to the land site from Sulphur, Louisiana. The third building was constructed on site.

June 7, 1921: The Rosenwald Fund was used to rebuild the school after it was destroyed by a storm on August 5, 1918. The school was named Rosenwald Colored School in honor of the philanthropist, Julius Rosenwald. Many other Black schools in the State of Louisiana were built from this fund and were so named.

August 7, 1921: School was held in the Bethel AME Church, while the first school was rebuilt after its destruction by the storm. Mrs. Jenkins was the teacher.

1925-1940 Faculty and Principals:

Mrs. Indy Tanner,	Mrs. Dunham,	Mrs. Zellah Whitt,	Mrs. Freeman,	Mrs. Mae Reed,	Mr. Fuster Scott
Hattie Price—First Grade		Edith Miller—Second & Third Grade			
Ellen Miller—Fourth & Fifth Grade		Velma Smith—Sixth & Seventh Grade			
James Smith—Eighth & Ninth Grade		H.C. Williams—Principal			

Augustine Armstead—Principal (last principal at the Rosenwald School site before the move to the Grand Avenue school site.)

August 2, 1949: A bond election of \$200,000.00 was passed for additional school buildings. Appropriations from this bond election were for a new colored school. The new "brick" school was built on Grand Avenue at a cost of \$56,827. DeQuincy Colored School, as it was called, was soon ready for classroom activities for a combined high school and elementary school under the principalship of Mr. Andrew Armstrong.

June 5, 1950: The wooden buildings from the Rosenwald site were moved behind the new "brick" building.

June 1, 1953: The first students to attain a high school diploma were: Barbara Gilliespie, Carolyn Patillo, Joan Eva Pullard, Dorothy Richard, and Evelyn J. Simmons.

Mr. Armstrong's successor was Mr. Charles Coney. Mr. Coney held the reign of principalship from 1955 through the integration of schools in DeQuincy in 1970. While on sabbatical leave on two occasions, Mr. Coney's position was assumed by Mr. Blount and Mr. Booty, respectively. When Grand Avenue School became DeQuincy Middle School, Mr. Coney remained principal until 1980.

DeQuincy became well known through DeQuincy Colored School and Grand Avenue High School's students excelling in academics (L.I.A.L.A.), sports and band.

April 2, 1957: DeQuincy Colored School officially became Grand Avenue High School. The name change was suggested by Mr. Coney.

July 21, 1970: A sad day for the students of Grand Avenue High School, it's alumni and community. With the arrival of integration, the school was transformed into DeQuincy Middle School. Not only was the name and the student makeup changed, but the BLUE AND GOLD colors that were cherished—with the school, were also erased.

February 23, 1990: The doors of the school were closed, a new middle school was ready for occupancy at a new location across town, on the other side of the railroad tracks!

END OF AN ERA!

Class of 1953

Barbara J. Gillespie

Carolyn Patillo

Joan E. Pullard*

Dorothy Richard*

Evelyn J. Simmons

Class of 1954

Bernadine Como

Ella Mae Comeaux*

Myrtis L. Gillespie*

John Roland Jackson*

Alice Pearl Patrick*

Obey Pete, Jr. *

Doris Warner*

Betty White*

Verline Woodard*

Class of 1955

Joe Louis Brown*

Lloyd R. Brown*

Raymond Chachere*

Mildred Cooks*

W. K. Foster

A. L. Gillespie

Janie Gillespie

Sanders Kelly*

Preston Washington

Dewitt White*

Class of 1956

Maggie Booker*

Rose Brown Cooks

Betty Gillespie

Rose Marie Gray

Gertie B. Hodges

Walter L. Payne, Jr.

Yvonne Phiher*

Orelia Placide*

Howard Tanner*

Class of 1957

Darlene Adams*

Darlene Arvan

Lawrence Brown

Curtis Brown

Lynwood J. Chachere*

Shirley Patrick Chachere*

Eva Como*

David J. Gayden

Amos Jackson

Clyde Jackson

Ollie B. Jakes

Emma Lee Johnson*

Mitchell Marburgh*

Arthur Roosevelt Monroe*

Freddie Mosley*

Fredrick Payne*

Bernice Pete*

Fannie Lee Pete

Retha M. Pullard

Eliza Jo Richard*

Lucinda Skinner

George Smith*

Mose Smith, Jr.

Sylvester M. Smith*

Ethel Soleaux

Donald Stewart

Hazel M. Vincent

Class of 1958

Lois M. Brown

Madison Brown*

Bessie Foster Cage

Bessie Chachere*

Yvonne Chachere

K. Francis Cleveland

Myrtis Como

Felton Davis

Kelsie Farris, Jr.*

Nuby Green*

James Fields*

Eddie Ford*

Mary Jane Ford

Margaret Ann Gayden

Bernadine Grant*

Joseph Kelly*

Wilson LeBlanc

Dorothy L. Lofton

Clara B. Lofton

George Ludrick Thomas

Ruthie M. Thomas

Barbara Jean White

Class of 1959

Betty J. Anderson

Darlene Arvan*

Bobby Brown*

Rose Mary Brown

William Busby*

Earl Darby*

"Sweet" P. Doyle*

Gloria D. Edison

Gene B. Farris*

Alex Green*

Eddie Jackson*

Ivory G. James*

Irma McCain

Gloria D. Marburgh

Elizabeth A. Pete*

Ethel Warner*

Ollie Mae White

Class of 1960

Bernard Antoine

Abner Brown

Freddie Brown

Lionel Cooks

Shannon Denson

Barbara J. Farris*

Emma Foster

Fannie Hardy

Mary Ann Irving

Alfred Lyons

Jeff Mays

Ceasar Ray Palmer*

Ida B. Palmer

Alice M. Thomas

Clarence Walker*

Wilton Williams

Nancy L. Young

Class of 1961

Carl Ashley*

Henry Alexander*

Leonard Brown*

Willie C. Brown

Hazel L. Dobbins

Shirley Frazier

Billy Ray Henry

Johnnie Henry

Ned Johnson, Jr.

Alice Pearl Kelly*

Earline McNeil

Sadie Pete*

James Roberts*

Rose Sims*

Lorraine Smith*

Elizabeth Tanner*

Leroy Tanner*

Willie Tanton*

John Taylor

Nancy Wells

Margie L. Williams*

Stewart Williams*

Class of 1962

Delores E. Brown

Roger Brown*

George L. Carter*

Paul Cooks*

James Dillon

Lula M. Farris*

Patricia Grant*

Scott Grant*

Mary A. Gray

Melvin Green*

Willie Hawthorne

Charles Pullard*

Ethel M. Pullard

Betty Gray Pullard

Seymour Pullam, Jr.

Billy Rigmaiden*

Tommy Rigmaiden*

Johnny Smith

Gloria Spiller

Marie Stewart

Donald Theodore*

Joseph Thomas*

Loicy M. Thomas

Class of 1963

David Anderson

Pearlie B. Brown*

Willie Buck

Raymond E. Clarkston*

Betty R. Freeny

Fred LeBlanc

Evelyn McCoy

Leatha Marburgh

Etta J. Pullard

Annie J. Smith

James Spiller*

Clara Stevens*

Curtis. B. Thomas*

Rebecca Thomas

Alvin West*

Sandra West

Mary Zacharie*

Class of 1964

Roland Ashley
Murphy Brock
Patricia Buck
Earnestine Butler*
Delores Butler
Phillip Carrier*
Melvin Carrier
Patricia Chenier*
Raymond Daniel*
Clifton David
Barbara Davis
Mary Doyle
Walter Easton
Alvin Farris
Barbara Fisher
Freddie Gray
Charles Hodges*
Charles Johnson
Joan LeDay
Vernon LeDay*
Berlene McCoy
Merlene McCoy
Willie Pete*
Shirley Rose
Harriette Roy*
Joe Skinner
Harry Spiller*
Louis St. Mary
Dorothy Stevenson
Vivian Thibodeaux
Alice Thomas*
Larry Washington
Alvin Williams*
Franklin D. Williams*

Class of 1965

Marion Adams
Raymond Ashley*
Mary A. Ball*
Della Blount
Larry Brannon
Joseph Brown
W.J. Buck
Helen Carrier
Alfred Chenier, Jr.*
Joseph Clement*
Edward Doyle
Allen Edwards
Beatrice Fontenot
Geneva Gray*
Erma Hal
Ella Hansbrough
Rose E. Harris
Sandra Kelly
Margaret Long
Dan Marburgh*
Albert Mays
Delores Pullard*
Margaret Pullard
Geraldine Rigmaiden*
Lastie Skinner*
Arthur Stevenson*
Leon Stevenson
Sammie J. Tate*
Charles Thomas
Louella Thomas
Barbara Toliver
Ivory Jean Wood

Class of 1966

Willard Abram*

Jessie Adams*

Dwight Allen

Clifton Baker*

Angeline Brown

Iona Jean Brown

Louis J. Buck*

Charles Carrier*

James F. Clement*

Sherry Lynn Cole

Bessie Daniels

Freddie Lee Dines

Thelma Frank

Annie Hansbrough*

Charles Hills*

Janice Johnson

Edgar Jordan, Jr.

Robert Kelly

Wallace LeDay

Norma J. Mays

Johannis Paige*

Oliver Cliff Roy*

Ethel M. Sample

Ruby Loyce Samuel*

Donald Scott*

Robert Sims*

Michael Spiller*

Addie CeCelia VanDyke

Donald Victorian

Shirley Zacherie

Class of 1967

Mary Linda Ashley
Virginia Brock*
Curley Buck
Delicia Buck
Eva Mae Carmon
Joseph Carrier*
Gerald Carter*
Elizabeth Chenier
Loratha Colbert
Joseph Eaglin
Donald Fisher
Robert Frank
Sandra Gillespie*
Betty Hansbrough
James D. Hawthorne*
Alvin Hodges
Carl E. Johnson*
Lorraine Mitchell
Clarence Monroe*
Dorothy Peacock
Betty J. Perkins
Freddie J. Perkins
Mary J. Perkins
Alice Faye Pullam
Etta Loyce Pullard
Preston Pullard, Jr.*
John Richard
David Scott*
Gwendolyn Simien
Doris Sims
Calvin J. Skinner
Claiborne Skinner*
Jeanette Stevenson
Oscar Stevenson*
Cynthia Marie Tate
Mary Ann Thomas
Ophelia Victorian
Margaret Williams
Martha R. Williams
Bertrice Zacherie

Class of 1968

Willie Adams
Clarice Ball
George Brock*
Ennis Brown*
Verna Buck
Kenneth Carter
Brenda Daniels
Linda Daniels
Felton Davis, Jr.
A.V. Dixon
Billie Jean Frank
Earl Glass
Alberta Hansbrough
Audrey Harris*
Jacqueline Hills
James Holden*
Linda Jackson
Ada L. Johnson
Joyce Jones
Donna Jordan*
Gloria Kelly
Rose LeDay
Edwin Lewis
Cleveland Marburgh
Randall Norman
Howard G. Pullard
John Rankins
Mittie Rigmaiden
Carol Shuttuck
Annie Lee Skinner
Willie Smith*
Mary Smith
Elijah Stevenson
Albert J. Thomas
Carrie Lee Toliver
Velma VanDyke
Ellen Victorian
Betty Williams*
Norris Williams
Eric Wood

Class of 1969

Justina Ashley

Dorothy Hall

Joe Lee Brock*

Phillip Fontenot

Vera Fontenot

Alvin Glass*

Gwendolyn Grant

Leroy Hunter

Joan Arnetta Johnson

Norma Jean Kingka

JoAnn McQueen

Robert Monroe*

Rudolph Pinkney*

Barbara G. Pullard*

Charles Shattuck*

Jerry Samuel

Viney Silas

Larry Smith*

Vickie Tate

Ruthie Thomas

Carl Douglas Wells*

Class of 1970

Otis Adams*
Minnie Lee Ball
Hortense Carter
Janet Ceasar
Sharon Chachere
Shirley Chachere
Leroy Cole
Jackie Lee Cooks
Edward Faulks
Clifton Frank, Jr.
Jeralynn Hills
Robert Hollins, Jr.*
Alvin Johnson
Lewis Kelly
Doris Monroe
Sara Moses*
Robert Norman
Esther Lynn Pinkney
Paul Roberts
Joselynn Rigmaiden
Martha Roy
Alvin Scott*
Billy Ray Simien*
Ronald Simien*
Joseph Stevenson*
Alfreda Spiller
Freddie Taylor, Jr.*
Mary Taylor
Mose Thomas, Jr.
Charles Victorian
Rodger Wells
Lynn Williams
Virginia Williams
Margarite Williams*