

A Timeline of High School in Covington Public Schools



- 1850 – Covington City Charter provided for a high school
- 1853 – Central High School began with 20 students (11 boys and nine girls) in the Fourth District School at 11th and Scott streets. It is the first secondary school in Covington and the first public high school in the state of Kentucky – Asa Drury principal
- 1866 – Daniel Henry Holmes builds his luxurious estate, “Holmesdale” as a summer home for his family
- 1872 – Central High School became Covington High School when a new 12 room red brick school building was constructed at 12th and Russell streets
- 1895 – William Grant High School was established for African-American students in the Lincoln Elementary School on Seventh St. between Madison and Scott
- 1896 – The State College at Lexington placed Covington High School on the accredited list of high schools which meant that graduates could then enter State College classes without further examination
- 1915 – Covington Board of Education purchased Holmesdale and its remaining contents from the widow of Daniel Henry Holmes, Jr. for the site of the new high school. The home is known as “The Castle”
- 1919 – The new Covington High School opens on January 16
- 1919 – Because of the association with the Holmes estate, the school is referred to as ‘Holmes’ and officially becomes Covington Holmes High School as it remains today
~ “The Student,” October 1919
- 1926 – Holmes Junior High School is built
- 1925 – The football field is developed in the place of a small lake – the effort to do so was led by students – no stands or lights –first game was with Paris, Ky. Before this time the football team played on the Andrews Steel Mill field in Newport
- 1932 – The new Lincoln Grant School for kindergarten through 12th graders opened on Greenup St. between 8th and 9th streets
- 1936 – The contents of the Castle are sold at public auction. The Castle is destroyed over the Thanksgiving break
- 1937 – The Administration Building is constructed by the WPA - Works Progress Administration - on the site of the Castle
- 1938 – Lights and stands were installed at the football field with grant money from the WPA
- 1912 – 1940 Holmes graduated half year classes
- 1966 – The science building and David M. Evans Physical Education Building (the Field House) were built
- 1967 – William Grant School discontinued its high school program and all remaining high school students there transferred to Holmes

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- 1968 – The athletic field is named in honor of longtime Coach Tom Ellis
- 1980 – Chapman Academic and Vocational School opened. It was named in honor of longtime Board of Education member and Covington businesswoman Virginia Chapman
- 1982 – Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (MCJROTC) began
- 1987 – First International Baccalaureate Diplomas awarded. Extensive renovation of the entire Holmes complex took place in order to make it all physically handicapped-accessible
- 1990 – The Nordheim Gallery was opened for students' Fine Arts enrichment and as an outreach to the community
- 1994 – The Chapman Child Development Center opened in January
- 2001 – The Holmes High School Hall of Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Honorary Alumni inducted its first five members at the May Commencement Exercises
- 2002 – Echoes of the Past, A History of the Covington Public School System by Betty Lee Nordheim was published by Covington Independent Public Schools
- 2003 – Holmes High School, The History... The Promise – 150 year celebration for alumni and the community held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in May
- 2005 – The Bill Meyers Pavilion was dedicated on October 2
- 2006 – SACS accreditation
- 2008 – Holmes Auditorium is dedicated as Jack Moreland Auditorium in May
- 2009 – Holmes Middle School is established in the former Holmes Junior High School
- 2009 – The Holmes Boys Basketball team wins the KHSAA state championship
- 2011 – The Holmes Media Center, administrative offices, and cafeteria are renovated
- 2011 – Holmes 180 turn-around plan is implemented
- 2013 – Covington Schools Athletic Hall of Fame Inaugural class is inducted in March
- 2013 – A new, state-of-the-art band room is dedicated in April
- 2013 – SACS Advanced accreditation