



Arriving in Orange County.

## The Early Ofears -------

Orange County Public Schools dates back to December 1869, when teaching as a profession was uncommon. In the frontier days, schools were often an extension of the church; ministers taught students during the week in the same community where they preached on Sunday. Education was rather informal and lasted only several months.

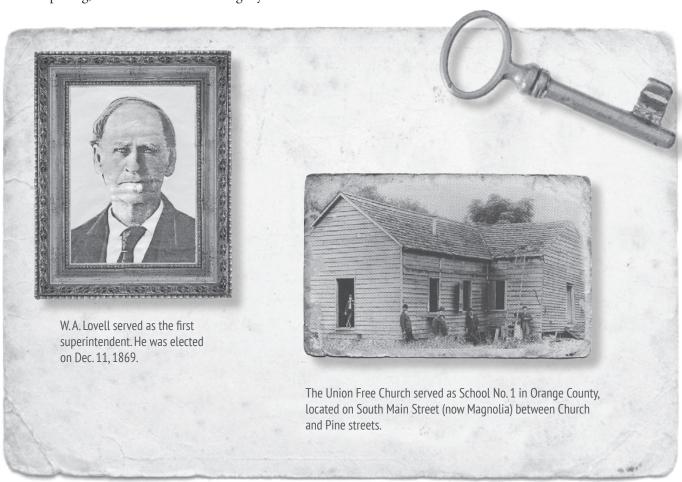
The residents of that time were typical frontiersmen, many of whom settled in search of a better life. After the Civil War, the population of Florida grew as northerners and southerners alike moved to escape the turmoil of reconstruction.

In 1869, the state of Florida passed the first secular school law, which established Orange County as a school district to be governed by an appointed board of three members, and to be run by a superintendent. The new county board was empowered to levy taxes and to issue "certificates of competency" for teachers.

W.C. Roper, A.C. Caldwell, and Zelotes Mason were the first board members, with W. A. Lovell serving as superintendent. Teachers were paid one dollar per month per student, which originally came from tuition paid by parents and later from tax revenue.

Teachers were expected to be able to read intelligently from the Bible and the school reader, to be able to teach properly from them, to be able to spell correctly and teach spelling, and to be able to write legibly.

The population of Orange County grew from 2,195 during the 1870 census to 6,618 by 1880, which made it necessary to open a number of new schools, from five schools in 1871 to more than 160 in 1889. Keep in mind, however, many of those schools had fewer than 10 students! It wasn't until the early 1890s that laws started to govern the minimum distance between schools and how many students they should serve.



The 1870 census figures of 2,195 had increased to 6,618 by 1880. Reflecting this population growth, the following schools requested admittance to the Orange County Public School system between 1872 and 1889:

1872	Lake Irma
Apopka Senior	Lake Prairie
Apopka South	Lake Oak Church
Fairview	Longwood
Hill	Meeks Mill
1873	New Hope
Benton's Prairie (Black)	New Upsala
Econ	Oakland-Winter Garden
Lake Harney	Orange Church
Lake Tracey	Pendryville (Crooked Lake)
Little Econ	Pine Castle
The Point (Kissimmee)	Ravenwood
Shingle Creek	Robinson, Louis
1874	Stewart, Matthew
Boggy Creek	Tucker's Mill
1875	Zellwood
Fort Christmas	1878
Hookers	Blackwater (Black)
Lake Virginia	Routh and Byron
Miller, J. H.	Sanford
Partins, H.	Sanford (Black)
Spring Hill	Seneca Lake (Sorrento)
Sylvan Lake	Tuscawilla
1876	1879
Starke Lake	No schools added
Mount Zion	1880
1877	Alton
Akron	Bass and Barber
Altamonte	Code Hills
Blackwater	Emeralda
Clay Springs	Fort Layton
Formosa	Lucky
Fort Mason	Maitland (Black)
Golden Lake	Pendryville
Hawkinsville	1881
Howell Creek	Bay Springs

Myrtle Lake

Orange Ridge

Lake Crescent Lake Dorr

Tangerine Umatilla 1882 Aragonne Arkana Eustis Hanibal Jones, Sr. (Black) Lakeville Merrimac New Arbor Pine Lawn Salem 1883 Bronson Diagers Eustis (Black) Glendale Gotha Kissimmee Longwood (Black) Ocoee (Black) Parks Powell. Isaac Reeves Tavares 1884 Bay Ridge Cleveland Holden Smith, H.T. Wekiva 1885 Altamonte Springs Astor Bogay Creek Church

Boston Lake

Grand Island

Lake Johanna Norristown Oklawaha Orange Pound **Rock Springs** Round Lake 1886 Altamonte (Black) Baptist Bayview Barnard, J. T. Bethel Canadas Cassia Cherry Point Chuluota Concord Croff Bass Cummingville Station Fairview Forrest City Gabriella Geneva Heath Higley Hulls Indian Spring Lake Adair Lake Howell Lovell's Landing Manhattan (Black) Messina Mount Carmel Mount Dora (Black) Oviedo Park Avenue Pine Grove

Hampton

Plymouth Raulerson Rock Lake Spring Creek Summit Tangerine (Black) Tiners Trov Wheatley (Black) Yates Point 1887 Across Anna Belle Barton Lake Cherry Hill Clear Lake Crescent Crown Point Dann Hodges Lake Brantley Lake Mary Mackinin Oak Hill

Oakland (Black)

Oviedo (Black)

Tavares (Black)

1888

1889

Fitzville



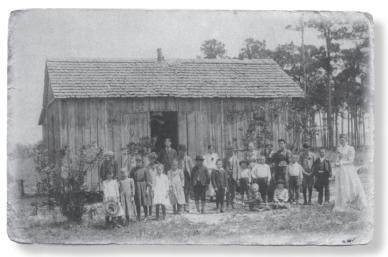


1884 Orlando Public School -S. W. corner of Orange Ave. and Jackson St.



## OH O'lew Century

After the turn of the 20th century, Orange County and the school district continued to grow. One of the most pressing concerns was transportation. Almost every board meeting between 1902 and 1906 was concerned with requests for transportation, and the awarding of bids to prospective drivers who provided their own horses and wagons. After permission from the board in 1915, teacher Mattie Chapman became the first student transport driver to use an automobile. She had only three days to learn to manipulate the new machine. Automobiles gradually replaced wagons and horse teams throughout the district.



The Clear Lake School, as it was in 1891. Students were taught by Clara Ivey, pictured on the far right.



Piedmont School – opened around 1896 and closed in spring of 1903.



## 1920s and Beyond

The 1920s were boom years for OCPS, as dozens of bond issues were released to build new schools. By 1930, the school system was made up of 55 schools. However, during the Great Depression, the district struggled to repay the loans and keep school facilities open. To make matters worse, the population kept growing. About 20,000 moved into Orange County by 1940 and classrooms began overflowing with students.

The Federal Emergency Relief Act provided much-needed capital to build a number of new schools and improve others. As a result, the district hired its first supervisor of maintenance in 1935.

This period also saw the introduction of the first fleet of all-steel school buses purchased by the district. The vehicles were painted orange and were clearly marked "Orange County Schools." The district hired a mechanic and opened a garage facility in 1936. About this time, schools were starting to request the use of school buses to transport students for field trips and athletic events.









Schools throughout the county added athletic coaches to the teaching staffs in the early 1920s. Professor Jack Reid (far left) joined the Ocoee High staff in 1925 and led the boys team to several championships.



# CRapid CGrawth

In the next two decades, the population of Orange County more than tripled, from 70,074 in 1940 to more than 263,500. Thousands of military personnel and their families moved into the area when Orlando became a major flight training ground for the Army Air Corps.

The district also had to deal with a teacher shortage, as many entered the war effort. Teachers who remained found themselves with more students than ever before. The scarcity of resources also affected transportation.





Students in communities like Gotha, Taft, Maitland and Windermere were considered too isolated for students to be transported by school bus. In return, families were paid \$5 per month to defray the costs of providing their own transportation to school.

As the district grew, many of the original schools that current residents are familiar with were built – for example, Lake Como Elementary (1951); Jones High (1951); Wheatley Elementary (1951); Boone High (1952); Edgewater High (1952); Orlo Vista Elementary (1952); Dream Lake Elementary (1954); Glenridge Middle (1956); and Evans High (1958).

During this period there was a growing movement in Florida and the nation to improve educational opportunities for black children. The 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* ruling made segregation unconstitutional; however, it was several years before desegregation began in Orange County.

For years, black senior high-school students from Tangerine, Zellwood, Plymouth and Apopka were

transported as far as 25 miles to Hungerford High School in Eatonville. Likewise, students from Oakland, Winter Garden, Windermere and other areas were transported to Jones High. In 1956, Superintendent Judson Walker recommended senior-high facilities for blacks be created in Apopka and Winter Garden by adding grades to existing schools for blacks in those communities. Phillis Wheatley in Apopka and Charles Drew in Winter Garden became senior high schools for black students. An additional elementary school for blacks was built in Washington Shores.

The road to integration was a bumpy one, and after being sued in 1962, Orange County was under federal court oversight until 2010, when the district was finally granted "Unitary Status," indicating that the district had erased all vestiges of past discrimination.







Dr. Phillips High School opened in August 1987.

Computer labs were installed in middle and high schools

## The CGrawth CCantinues

The 1970s saw even more exponential growth, as more and more families and immigrants moved into Central Florida, bolstered by the development of Walt Disney World and other industries.

By 1980, the population of Orange County was about 458,000, a 33 percent increase from the previous decade. With 4,850 teachers serving 81,000 students, OCPS was the 28th-largest district in the nation. By 1987 we had climbed to 23rd on the list.

The biggest change during the 1980s might be considered the expansion in use of computers and technology in all areas of the district. Document Processing Centers saved thousands of hours of secretarial work, thus saving about \$500,000 per year. Computer labs were installed in middle and high schools, and students began to take classes on computer literacy. Teachers also began taking professional development courses for computer skills.







# Depending on the Community

As the 20th century drew to a close, Orange County Public Schools continued its commitment to the young people of Orange County. A new mission statement adopted by the board during the 1990s defined its mission: "to enable all students to think creatively and critically, to learn what is not yet known, to exercise good judgment, to develop self-respect, and to care about and be fair to others."

Programs had been expanded to include alternative education, bilingual programs, community education, extended-day enrichment programs, hearing and vision screenings, a hospital/homebound program, prekindergarten program, and preschool diagnostic and intervention services.

The district began actively recruiting parent volunteers and business partners to support our schools. The Foundation for Orange County Public Schools was created to help recruit, retain and recognize quality teachers in the district. More recently, the school board

adopted a Philanthropic Strategic Plan to raise money for unfunded programs that are proven to increase student achievement.

The district would not be where it is today without the support of the community. In 2002, after several failed attempts, voters approved a half-penny sales tax for the renovation of old schools and to support the construction of much-needed new schools. Thanks to that effort, and a renewal of the half penny in 2014, all students in Orange County will have access to modern classrooms and technology.

The district's current vision is to become the top producer of successful students in the nation. The mission statement provides a roadmap of how we plan to get there: to lead our students to success with the support and involvement of families and the community. As Henry Ford wrote: "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

## OHS

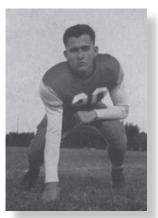
### ORLANDO HIGH SCHOOL

Capt. John Watts Young Class of 1948









John Young is perhaps the most well-traveled Orange County Public Schools alumnus of all time. A man of many firsts, Young's flight experience as a naval aviator and astronaut spans five decades.

Born in San Francisco in 1930, the Great Depression forced Young's family to move. They settled in Orlando when he was 18 months old; a historical marker now stands in the front yard of Young's childhood home in College Park. He attended Princeton Elementary and graduated from Orlando High School, the current Howard Middle School, in 1948.

Young earned a bachelor's degree with highest honors in Aeronautical Engineering from Georgia Tech in 1959, then entered the U.S. Navy. After serving aboard the destroyer USS Laws during the Korean War he entered flight training school, which would serve as the basis for the rest of his distinguished career.

As a record-setting test pilot, Young was selected to become an astronaut and joined NASA in 1962. He had the longest career of any astronaut, becoming the first person to make six space flights over the course of 42 years of active NASA service.

In 1963, John Young flew the first manned Gemini mission, during which he operated the first computer on a manned spacecraft. In 1966, he flew into space again on Gemini 10. On Apollo 10 in 1969, he orbited the moon, and in 1972 on Apollo 16 he became the ninth person to walk on the moon. During that mission, Young and fellow astronaut Charles Duke spent 71 hours on the lunar surface, including three moonwalks totaling more than 20 hours.

Young's final two missions were aboard the Space Shuttle, including STS-1, the first flight of the shuttle in 1981, and again on STS-9 in 1983, which carried the first Spacelab module.

John Young served as Chief of the Astronaut Office from 1974 to 1987 and then served in several advisory roles at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX, until his retirement in 2004 at age 74.

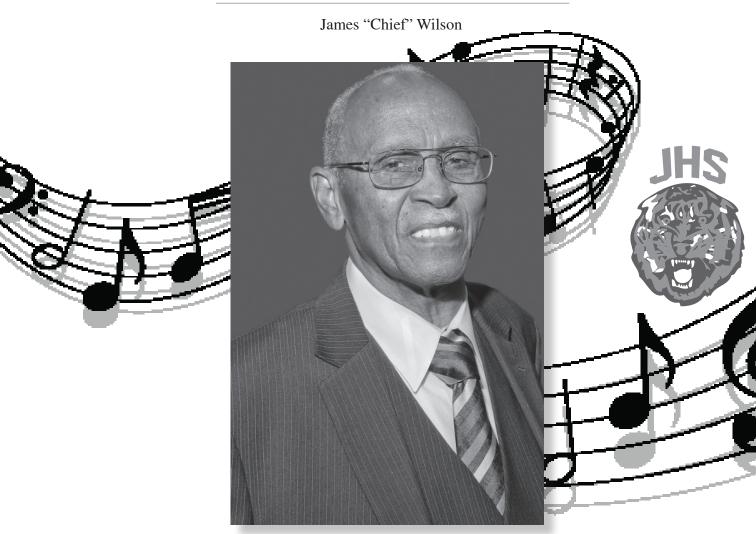
In Central Florida, State Road 423 is named John Young Parkway in his honor, and an OCPS elementary school also bears his name.



Apollo 16 crew: Ken Mattingly, John Young and Charles Duke

## 40 Years

## DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR



Affectionately known as "Chief," James Wilson's entire 40-year career was spent teaching at Orange County Public Schools. With the exception of one semester at Evans High School, Wilson taught at Jones High School from 1950 until his retirement in 1990. A graduate of Crooms Academy in Sanford, Wilson earned his music degree at Florida A&M University.

Originally hired to teach civics and history, it was his love of music that served as the foundation of his legacy. In the early days, Wilson taught music theory and fundamentals during his free period. Those lessons expanded into after-school hours and on Saturdays. As the fledgling band program grew, Wilson went into the elementary schools to begin teaching music. As the Jones High School band program grew, it achieved a stellar reputation.

Under his leadership, the band traveled to the New York World's Fair in 1964, the Knoxville World's Fair in 1982, and the bi-centennial celebrations in Washington D.C. in 1976 and 1987. The band was also invited to perform at several functions for President Lyndon Johnson during his visits to Orlando. Wilson was committed to providing

quality education and musical experiences for his students. He also took great pride in preparing his students for college and assisting them with obtaining scholarships.

In 1973, Wilson joined the board of the CFE Federal Credit Union, and has been instrumental in its growth over the years. His support has led to a number of CFE programs that benefit students, including the high-school branch program, operating in three OCPS high schools; a scholarship program that provides money to graduating seniors each year; the MyCFE4Schools affinity debit card program; and a five-year grant program to enrich media centers at many of our schools.

Wilson is a member of the Florida Music Educator's Hall of Fame and the Florida Bandmasters
Association Hall of Fame, and has been recognized over the years by many churches, schools and community organizations.

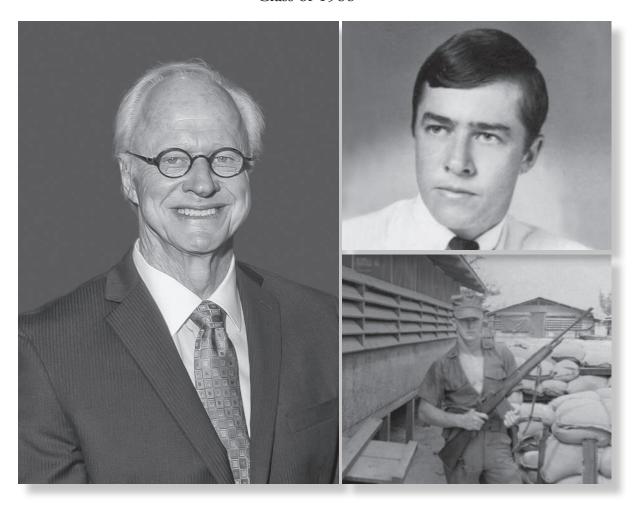
In 2004, Wilson's legacy was recognized by the Orange County School Board with the naming of the newly built auditorium at Jones High School in his honor.



## 2H3

## **EVANS HIGH SCHOOL**

Dick Batchelor Class of 1966



Dick Batchelor's advocacy for children has benefited hundreds of thousands of students in Orange County for more than three decades and bolstered the Central Florida economy by billions of dollars.

Batchelor was born in Fort Bragg, NC, one of seven children. His parents were tenant tobacco farmers before moving to Orlando in 1957, where his father worked in construction and later as a carpenter.

After several years living in low-income housing, the Batchelor family moved into a home in the Orlo Vista neighborhood. He graduated from Evans High School in 1966, after which he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Vietnam, earning the rank of Corporal.

Thanks to the G.I. Bill, Batchelor earned degrees from Valencia Community College and the University of Central Florida. In 1974, he became the youngest person to be elected to the Florida Legislature, where he served eight years, five of which were in leadership roles. He was the recipient of more than 50 awards for his legislative service.

Following his time in the legislature, Batchelor founded a consulting firm and has been deeply involved in the Central Florida community, especially in issues dealing with children.

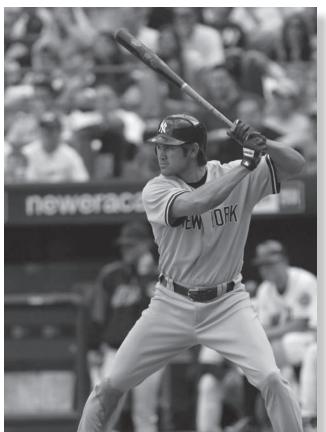
He currently serves on several boards, including the Florida Children's Hospital Board, Florida Hospital Foundation Board, the First Amendment Foundation, and Central Florida Urban League Board of Directors, Florida Children's First, and the Florida Tuskogee Airmen Board. Since 1981, he has served as the honorary chairman of the "Dick Batchelor Run for the Children," an annual 5-K run that raises funds to treat abused children. Batchelor is frequently named one of "The 50 Most Powerful People" by *Orlando Magazine*.

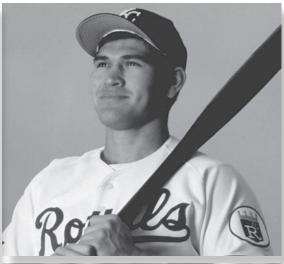
In 2002, Batchelor founded Change 4 Kids to generate support for a half-penny sales tax to build new schools and renovate older schools in desperate need of repair in Orange County. Six previous referendum attempts had failed, but thanks to Batchelor's work, the referendum passed with almost 60 percent of the vote. For his efforts, Batchelor was named the 2002 Central Floridian of the Year by the *Orlando Sentinel*.

In 2014, Batchelor once again spearheaded a successful Change 4 Kids campaign to renew the half-penny sales tax for another 10 years. The sales tax is expected to generate \$2 billion to replace or refurbish schools, provide important technology upgrades and make a major economic impact on regional construction.

# DPHS DR. PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL

Johnny Damon Class of 1992







Johnny Damon was born at Fort Riley, KS, where his father Jimmy was stationed as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army. He had met his wife while stationed in Thailand. After Johnny was born, his parents lived on bases in Japan and West Germany before settling in Orlando, where he started pre-school.

A natural athlete, Damon was a big baseball fan and fulfilled his passion while playing in the South Orange Little League. By seventh grade, he had caught the eye of Dr. Phillips High School's baseball coach, Danny Allie, who was impressed by how hard Johnny worked. It was clear every time he took the field; running, while others walked.

As a freshman at Dr. Phillips in 1988, Damon made the football team and was one of the team's best players. In the spring, he made the baseball team playing center field, and turned out to be the school's first four-year starter. He also ran track and was considered one of the Panthers' top runners.

During his senior year in 1992, Damon was rated the top high-school prospect in the country by *Baseball America*, was named to *USA Today's* High School All-America team, and was the Florida Gatorade Player of the Year.

He was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the first round (35th overall) of the 1992 amateur draft. After four years in the minors, he made his Major

League debut in 1995 and played for the Royals until 2000. He donned the uniforms of the Oakland Athletics in 2001, the Boston Red Sox from 2002-2005, the New York Yankees from 2006-2009, the Detroit Tigers in 2010, the Tampa Bay Rays in 2011, and the Cleveland Indians in 2012, winning two memorable World Series along the way (2004 Red Sox and 2009 Yankees). He led the American League in stolen bases in 2000.

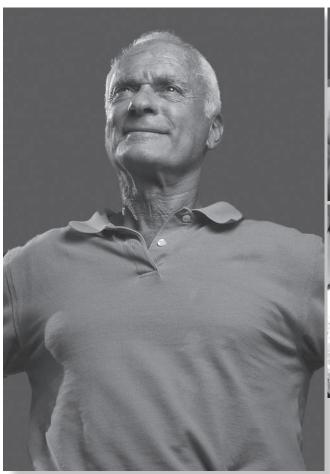
Off the field, Damon established The Johnny Damon Foundation, a non-profit that has supported local groups such as Arnold Palmer Hospital, PACE Center for Girls, Edgewood Children's Ranch, S.T.A.R.S. of West Orange, West Orange Habitat for Humanity, Orlando Magic Youth Fund, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central and Northern Florida, West Orange Boys and Girls' Club, Dr. Phillips High School, Orlando Firefighters Benevolent Association and UCP of Central Florida. He's also a national spokesman for the Wounded Warrior Project, which provides programs and services designed to ease the burdens of severely injured servicemen, servicewomen and their families.



## Philanthropist

### COMMUNITY CHAMPION

#### Harris Rosen







Harris Rosen established the Tangelo Park Program, offering free preschool and full college and vocational scholarships to youth in the Tangelo Park neighborhood of Orlando.

Harris Rosen was born and raised in a gritty, impoverished neighborhood on the Lower East Side of New York City. Encouraged by his parents to get an education in order to live a better life, he studied hard, swam competitively, and was accepted to Cornell University. He earned a bachelor's degree in hotel administration in 1961.

Rosen served three years in the U.S. Army as an officer in Germany and South Korea, after which he completed the Advanced Management course at the University of Virginia's Graduate School of Business. He began his career at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City as a file clerk in Personnel and later became a convention salesman. He worked his way up the Hilton Hotel Corporation ranks, serving in management roles at some of the company's largest hotels.

Rosen joined the Disney Company in California as Director of Hotel Planning and was heavily involved in the design and development of the Contemporary Resort, Polynesian Village Resort, and the Fort Wilderness Resort and Campground that opened at Walt Disney World in 1971. He parted ways with Disney in 1974 and soon bought the 256-room Quality Inn on International Drive. Today, Rosen's

hotel empire spans seven properties totaling more than 6,300 rooms in Orlando.

Harris Rosen's dedication to help others is evident in the innovative Tangelo Park Project that helps support students in the community and better their lives through education. As part of the program, every two-, three-, and four-year-old receives free preschool; there are parenting classes and vocational or technical training opportunities for parents with children in school; and full tuition, room, board, and living expenses are paid for every Tangelo Park high-school graduate who is accepted by a vocational school, community college, or public university in the state of Florida. Through the years, more than 200 students have received full scholarships and more than 100 have already graduated from college.

In 2002, Rosen donated a 20-acre site and \$10 million to the University of Central Florida to build the Rosen School of Hospitality Management. He also donated \$3.5 million to build a new Jewish community in southwest Orlando. Most recently, he has committed to replicate the Tangelo Park Project at the new pre-school to eighth-grade school that opens in the Parramore neighborhood in 2017.

## BHS

### BOONE HIGH SCHOOL

Ericka Dunlap Class of 2000







Ericka Dunlap Magnet Officer President



Ericka Dunlap grew up in Orlando and dreamed of being Miss America from the time she was six years old. With three older sisters, one of whom was in college studying fashion design, Ericka was the perfect "mini model" and developed a love of dressing up and walking the runway at age three.

She began entering pageants in the first grade, and while she placed in the top 20 during her first outing, she didn't win. But soon after, she won her first crown. As a self-proclaimed "girly girl" who loved dressing up, Ericka was hooked. As she continued to compete, her mother started designing and sewing many of her dresses and costumes.

Ericka attended private school through the eighth grade and traveled the country on the weekends competing in pageants. But she took a break in 1996 when she began as a freshman at Boone High School. Her goal was to have the full high-school experience and prepare for college. At Boone, she was freshman class president and participated in a variety of clubs and organizations.

As Ericka began contemplating college at UCF, she decided to set her goal on Miss Florida, in part for the scholarship money. She won Miss Orlando in 2001 and Miss Heart of Florida in 2002. Both years she placed in the top 10 for Miss Florida. The following year, after being named Miss City Beautiful, she made it back to Miss Florida – and this time won, becoming the first black woman to wear the crown.

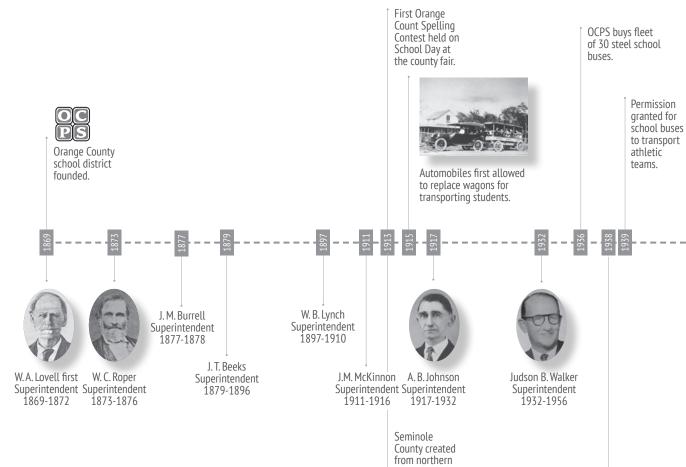
During her reign as Miss America, Ericka traveled the country and the world, entertaining troops Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait, and sharing the importance of diversity and inclusion. She and her former husband also appeared on *The Amazing Race 15* and placed third.

Dunlap is the founder of the Crown Jewel Foundation, an organization that encourages young girls to strive for excellence. Because of that dedication to young people, Ericka is a frequent mentor to girls at Evans High School and other schools.

Most recently, Ericka was named the Major Gifts Officer for Florida A&M University's College of Law.



Junior Ericka Dunlap is shocked to hear her name announced as the winner of the Miss Hometown USA Pageant.



portion of Orange County. First assistant principals hired for schools with more than 14 teachers.



classrooms added to deal with overcrowding.

> Voters approved making Superintendent of Schools an appointed position instead of an elected one.



Junior high schools equipped for typing classes.



The Orange County public school system is the 10th largest in the nation with 187,193 students.

School Board achieved unitary status October 12, 2010



R. Earl Kipp Superintendent 1956-1965



J. M. Higginbotham Superintendent

1967-1972

Superintendent 1972-1973

1973-1980

D. P. Ney



James L. Schott Superintendent Linton Deck 1980-1992 Superintendent



Donald Shaw Superintendent 1992-1997



Ronald Blocker Superintendent 2000-2012



Barbara Jenkins Superintendent 2012-present



W. O. Walker

1965-1966

Orville R. Davis Superintendent 1966-1967



Dennis Smith Superintendent 1997-2000

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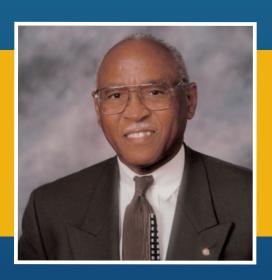
Lisa Willis, CenturyLink

Cynthia Williams, Foundation for OCPS



# **CONGRATULATIONS!**

All of us at CFE are proud of Chief's many accomplishments, including his 40 years as a music educator and his decades of service to CFE's Board of Directors. He has touched many lives in Central Florida.



**Orange County Public Schools** 

Hall of Fame Honoree Distinguished Educator James "Chief" Wilson









# Proudly supporting Orange County students for 27 years.

The Foundation works hand-in-hand with Orange County Public Schools to support student success, providing more than \$2.3 million for programs and supplies that helped students, teachers and schools this year. And, thanks to alumni and donors like you, we will continue to invest in the future of our children.

Congratulations to this year's Hall of Fame inductees!

