

A SHORT HISTORY OF RIVERTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

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1.	Introduction (click mouse to advance to next slide)
2.	To start off, who knows our school colors? (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
3.	Right – blue and gold. When Riverton took out a full-page ad in a 1939 issue of the local newspaper touting advantages of living in this fine community, what do you think was the first reason given? (CLICK MOUSE to show newspaper detail and show quote) : “A fine new public school with a very high rating is a distinct asset to our community.” (CLICK MOUSE to advance)
4.	Riverton School continues to be an asset to the community today. Does anyone know the Riverton School motto? (Click to show motto) It is “semper”, which is Latin for “always”. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
5.	Well, Riverton School hasn’t always been here – it just seems that way sometimes. A recent aerial photo shows the school at 5th and Howard. It’s that highest main part of the school which was built in 1910. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
6.	You should know that public education in Riverton is much older than 100 years. In fact, four other schools, none of which are now standing, also once served Riverton. (click to advance to next slide)
7.	The first record of an area school is that of a one-room brick school building erected in 1822 on a lane of the old Toy Plantation which later became Elm Avenue. Later, the building was moved to clear the way for the Camden-Amboy Railroad. The school serviced area residents for more than 40 years. The building later housed a blacksmith Shop until 1898 when it was demolished. (CLICK MOUSE to fade picture) (CLICK MOUSE again to advance to next slide)
8.	Another schoolhouse, known then as School District No. 7, Cinnaminson Township, was a frame building at the corner of 4th and Howard Streets as shown by this detail of an 1877 map. Constructed about 1865, the school had no central heating system and no indoor sanitation facilities. Cost of construction: \$800. (CLICK MOUSE to fade picture) (CLICK MOUSE again to advance to next slide)
9.	In 1892, a larger frame building known as Building No. 1 which contained six rooms was erected on the same site of the old 1865 building. Cost: \$4,400 plus \$500 for a heating plant and \$175 for a dry closet system. (CLICK MOUSE to fade picture) (CLICK MOUSE again to advance to next slide)

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10.	<p>In 1896, the small chapel building formerly occupied by the Roman Catholic Church (named Building No. 2) was purchased to house Burlington County's first public school kindergarten. Cost: \$1,000.(CLICK MOUSE to fade picture) (CLICK MOUSE again to advance to next slide)</p>
11.	<p>The 1910 building, called Riverton Public School, consisted of eleven classrooms which provided space for 400 pupils. Cost: about \$38,000, including the lot. (CLICK MOUSE to fade picture) (CLICK MOUSE again to advance to next slide)</p>
12.	<p>Increasing enrollment led to the construction of the first major addition to Riverton School in 1935. (Click to animate succession of dates) Four more classrooms were added in 1955, and another wing along the Cinnaminson Street side was constructed in 1974 with several new classrooms. There has been a continuing effort to maintain and improve the building in recent years. (Click to advance slide)</p>
13.	<p>So there you have a brief outline of the history of the buildings which have served as schools for Riverton. While these notes on the development of schools in Riverton may be of interest to some, it is the recollections of the generations of students, staff, parents, and community members that I would like to next turn our attention to. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>
14.	<p>I remember attending kindergarten when it was on the first floor..... (CLICK MOUSE to show fireplace with tiles) (CLICK MOUSE to show color tiles small) (CLICK MOUSE to show color tiles larger) The fireplace and tiles are still there, but the room has been divided, covered with wood paneling and a drop ceiling to provide administrative space and a music room. (CLICK MOUSE to advance slide)</p>
15.	<p>There's my dad in 3rd grade – 3rd from the right in the first row. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>
16.	<p>By 1911, the notation by the gasworks on the Sanborn maps says, Lights: Gas. But another notation for public lighting says only electric. Was that test piece on Lippincott just a trial and Public Service did not install the remaining lights until after 1911? For now we must say that we do not have a conclusive answer. (click to advance to next slide)</p>
17.	<p>In the oldest school photo we know of, stands Ogden Steedle in the window of the old school-house which stood on the blacktop playground. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>

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18.	<p>Of course, everyone had a favorite teacher and mine was Miss Drysdale, my first grade teacher. She moved up with us and became Mrs. Meyer, our second grade teacher. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>
19.	<p>Later, in 4th grade, Tom Whitesell (click to advance to next slide)</p>
20.	<p>Christ Episcopal Church (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>
21.	<p>Lived on Thomas Avenue Lamplighter (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>
22.	<p>What are these students participating in? (CLICK MOUSE to show 4 pictures in succession) (CLICK MOUSE to show caption) May Day (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>
23.	<p>May Queen (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>
24.	<p>Keating's (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>
25.	<p>Do you see anyone you know yet? Yes, that's me in the middle, but look more closely for someone who is in this room. Ricky Park, or Mr. Richard Park, President of the Riverton Board of Education. (click to advance to next slide)</p>
26.	<p>1966 engaged (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>
27.	<p>...to social studies teacher Mr. John Kloos (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>
28.	<p>During the mid-1950's and 60's many children would watch the Mickey Mouse Club after school. One segment was the newsreel which ended with this enigmatic dedication to its young viewers. (CLICK MOUSE to show newsreel screenshot – Pause – CLICK MOUSE again to exit screenshot) Many were puzzled at the time about the meaning, but looking back at some of these class photos you can see what Walt Disney meant. Helen Mack, Bob Martin, Joe Daniel (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)</p>

On some slides, just a key word or phrase is provided as a reminder for the topic Mrs. Kloos wished to address.
Mrs. Kloos paused often to hear comments or address questions from the audience. Consider this, instead, to be an outline of what was discussed, rather than the full text of the program.

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29.	Teachers' dress code (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
30.	Here we are back where we started as Riverton Public School celebrates its 100th anniversary. Riverton School is shown as it starts its second century of progress. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
31.	Here we are back where we started as Riverton Public School celebrates its 100th anniversary. Riverton School is shown as it starts its second century of progress. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
32.	From 1910 through 2010 one would expect there to be 100 photos of 8th grade graduating classes displayed on the wall in the hallway. As you can see, many are missing from the record, as shown by the red numbered years in this table. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
33.	(CLICK MOUSE to show table) This 30 year span fares a bit better but still has big gaps. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
34.	From 1976 to present the record is complete. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
35.	(CLICK MOUSE to show table) If you know of any photos which could be added to this archive, please contact me directly. (click to advance to next slide)
36.	(CLICK MOUSE to show table) Any loaned materials will be returned unharmed. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
37.	(CLICK MOUSE to show first caption – others will follow in turn) As you can see, many people contributed to this collection of scans which enriches our understanding of the past. If you can help in this regard, please contact the Historical Society of Riverton or contact Mr. McCormick directly. (CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide)
38.	(Pause for reveal of 3 captions, then CLICK MOUSE to advance to next slide) (The website address on this slide has been changed since the program was given to reflect the domain name change)
39.	(The end)