

YSD | Stewart School

Stewart School Builds On Success

BY PRINCIPAL JEROME KLIMISCH
Stewart Elementary School

Stewart School was built in 1966 at 21st and Cedar. In 1966, this was the edge of town with only the stockyards across the street to the north and the drive-in movie theater a half-mile north. The truck stop was west of the school along with seven homes. The school was built in response to the growing number of homes being built in the area.

The school was named in honor of two long-time teachers and principals, Kate and Jennie Stewart. Both of these women graduated from Yankton High School. Kate was a teacher and principal at Garfield Elementary School for 43 years (1893-1936). Jennie taught for 52 years (1892-1944) as well as being a principal of grades 7-8 in two buildings, the Junior High School and Central School. Both of these women began their teaching careers in Yankton at the third grade level. Their family home stood where Stewart School was built as they donated the land to the district. C.A. Peterson, of Rock Rapids, Iowa, was the general contractor; Ray Krovosa Plumbing and Heating of Yankton completed the mechanical work; Battin Electric of Yankton did the electrical work on the newest of our grade schools. The buff-colored brick building was built with nine classrooms and an all-purpose room. Each grade level had only one classroom, except for the first and second grades, which had two. An incomplete listing of staff members: principal, David Mendel; secretary, Naomi Somers; custodian, Pat Smith; second grade, Nelva Kooistra; fifth grade, Carol Winter; and sixth grade, Muriel Seger.

Almost immediately, student numbers increased, leading to Stewart's first of three additions. In 1969, seven additional classrooms, three restrooms and a teachers' lounge was completed. Stewart School had two classrooms at each grade level, as it remains today. Currently, music, speech, a resource room and fourth and fifth grade are located in the 1969 addition.

As public law 94-142 was enacted in the mid-1970s the need for special education classes became apparent. Former special education director Joyce Wentworth played a major role in the planning of a 9,500-square-foot addition known as the West Wing. The Special Education wing was completed in 1987, enlarging the school with five classrooms, restrooms, instructional kitchen, conference room and speech, testing and therapy rooms. Resource rooms I, II and III, early intervention and physical therapy are still housed in this wing today.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and the need for more space for student instruction led to a major renovation and building project with ground breaking in April 2009. The music area was renovated to include a band lesson room and additional square feet for music classes. The fourth grade classrooms were relocated to allow for a new



This 2009 photo shows the construction work on the new addition at Stewart Elementary School. The addition, which was opened in 2010, added a new gym, a library, a computer lab and two special education rooms.

Past Stewart School Principals:

Dave Mendel	.....1966-67 to 1980-81
Robert Walser	.....1981-82 to 1986-87
Sophie Merrigan	.....1987-88 to 1988-89
Kathleen West	.....1989-90 to 2002-2003
Jerome Klimisch	.....2003-2004 to present

hallway to lead into a new addition on to the north side of the school. The bathrooms in all of the areas were upgraded to make them ADA compliant.

In March 2010, a new gym, library, computer lab and two special education rooms were completed. The project was built by as many local contractors as possible: Welf Construction (general contractor), Fejfar Plumbing, Power

Source Electric and Baete Forseth (HVAC). The new gym offers much more space for PE activities as it is has twice the square feet of the old gym. The gym also features energy-efficient lighting, adjustable baskets and much-needed storage for equipment. The new gym allows us to use the old gym as the lunchroom and an area for special classroom projects and guidance activities. The new occupational therapy room at Stewart School has been designed and is being used to provide a "diet" of sensory input activities in order to help children meet specific sensory needs, as identified by our occupational therapist.

The Stewart library was a great addition. The additional space provides a better look at the collection with more room for everyone to enjoy their books, plus improved work space. The computer lab features 30 desktop computers and a SMARTboard for the teacher to instruct what is being displayed on the computer

screen. Before the new lab, portable laptop computers were used in the classroom. Battery charging time limited the number of hours per day students could use the computers hindering instruction. The new lab can be utilized all day and is being used by all grade levels because it is so much more accessible. The new addition also provides space for the early childhood speech and language and a new set of handicapped accessible restroom. During this whole process (2010), the Stewart PTA completed a \$40,000 playground improvement project for a new play structure on the playground. The structure is ADA accessible and has a rubberized soft surface installed underneath.

As you can see, Stewart has a rich history and we can't wait to see what the next 48 years bring!

A big thanks to Kathleen West and Marlene Johnson for contributing so much to this article!

YSD | Beadle School

Beadle Works To Craft Character

BY PRINCIPAL CAREY MITZEL
Beadle Elementary School

The ground was broken for Beadle Elementary School, located on north Mulberry near 11th Street, in the fall of 1925 and was completed the following summer. The school opened on Sept. 6, 1926, at a cost of \$40,000. There were 100 students attending the first four grades there. Each classroom was able to seat 35.

Beadle Elementary School currently has 380 students enrolled. Beadle is the oldest building in the Yankton School District and currently has the largest enrollment. Thanks to updates throughout the years, Beadle is structurally sound and able to deliver instruction using 21st century technology.

Kings and Dixon, architects from Mitchell, designed the school with a full basement and two stories. The school was constructed so that an additional unit might be added to the east side of the building if the enrollment warranted. Each story had two classrooms and toilet facilities. Classrooms were done in light oak woodwork and maple floors and furnished with gold oak furniture. Each classroom also had nine large windows on the west side. Curtains were attached to each window to control the amount of sunlight. Each room was completely equipped with modern fixtures.

The school is a fireproof structure of brown burnt brick. The front was comprised almost entirely of windows to ensure plenty of light. The hallway floors were constructed of polished stone and all staircases featured oak guard railings. The walls were finished in white.

Goetz Construction of Yankton was the general contractor for Beadle Elementary School. Loft and Highbee did the plumbing and Shuff Electrical Services did the electrical wiring. Beadle Elementary School was named after General W.H.H. Beadle. The general was a prominent educator in this territory in pioneer days. When Beadle School was originally built, the school was located near the northeast edge of Yankton. Just 35 years later, due to Yankton's rapid growth, Beadle was located near the middle of Yankton.

The original 1926 structure had six additions — 1940, 1950, 1953, 1960, 1972 and 1991. At the present time, it consists of 26 classrooms, a



In this undated photo, Beadle Elementary School students rally around the flag in the morning. This is reminiscent of the school's Patriot Day/Star-Spangled Banner observance, held every Sept. 11.

large gym, facilities and offices.

In 1991, one of the classrooms was converted into a school library. A library aide was hired. This summer, our library aide positions were reinstated to keep up with the needs of the 380 students and 40 teachers and staff who frequent it each week.

One of the most significant changes seen in our school the past several years is the tremendous advancement in technology. Our classrooms have computers and Smartboards, which provide students with lessons from the Internet and instructional software. Mobile carts of Chromebooks are available for use in Grades 3-5 and mobile carts of iPads are coming soon to our K-2 classrooms. In addition, Beadle Elementary has a computer lab with desktop computers that classrooms can visit for technology use.

Another change that is present at Beadle is the increase in measures to ensure the safety, security and welfare of students. Security cameras are installed throughout the building and outside of the buildings. Staff members use radios to communicate safety needs throughout each day. Doors are locked during the school

day except for the main entrance, limiting access to the building in unsupervised entrances. Messaging systems are used to inform parents during special circumstances. Students participate and practice drills regularly for fires, severe weather, evacuation and lockdowns. In addition, students are instructed and practice the Boys Town Social Skills weekly. Students also receive instruction on a variety of personal safety and building safety concepts through a guidance counselor.

Beadle is proud of the caring staff that works in the building each day. Nineteen teachers have a master's degree or beyond. We have a well-rounded staff that includes new teachers as well as more experienced personnel. Sixty percent of the staff have more than 15 years experience. We also rely on many volunteers to help our students get the best education and mentoring possible. Programs such as Kids HOPE USA, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, community and business volunteers and, of course, parent and guardian volunteers help connect our school and students to the larger Yankton community. Beadle also houses the district's elemen-

Past Beadle School Principals:

1949-61	.....Regina McDonnell
1961-65	.....Rodney Hall
1965-71	.....George Padrnos
1971-80	.....Dennis Nelson
1980-81	.....David Mendel
1981-87	.....Peg Wetherell
1987-90	.....Carolyn Pesicka
1990-2006	.....Arlene Young, Ed.D.
2006-Present	.....Carey Mitzel

tary special education rooms — for students with emotional and behavioral needs — commonly called The Learning Centers. The centers are designed to meet the special needs of students who demonstrate emotional and/or behavioral problems that interfere with their learning, as well as the learning of other students. The classrooms are self-contained programs with gradual inclusion/re-integration as a goal according to each child's individual needs and progress. The Learning Centers are structured to teach and monitor social and behavioral progress. Students are given positive feedback for positive behaviors and redirected in a caring and supportive environment for negative or inappropriate behaviors. All students work through a specially designed Individual Education Plan (IEP) that addresses their academic, social-emotional and behavioral needs.

We are happy to host a number of family activities outside of the school day each year. Some of these events are: a Boo-Hoo Breakfast for incoming kindergarten families, the Beadle Bridge Walk, Santa's Workshop Craft and Family Night, Book Fairs, Muffins for Moms/Donuts for Dads Breakfast during American Education Week, a Spring Carnival and Bingo Nights.

Parents, students and staff along with the community have worked together to create a school environment where all students are encouraged to achieve success in the academic areas as well as develop appropriate social skills. One of the things that has stayed consistent through the years is the need for strong relationships between students and the staff at Beadle School, and we work each day to build on this.

Thank You
Teachers, Administrators
and staff for all you do for
our students in Yankton
and the surrounding
communities! Your
dedication to education is
much appreciated!

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