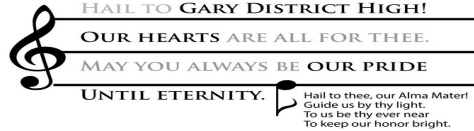


GDHAA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2022



Gary District High School



The WV McDowell County Board of Education allowed for voluntary integration based upon the individual district. By 1957, the number of Black students attending integrated schools in the county was four times greater than the entire state of West Virginia in 1959. At the beginning of the fall term in 1958, Black students were given the choice of remaining at Gary District High School or transfer to the all-white Gary High School. Many of the students chose to remain at Gary District High School. In 1961, the West Virginia Human Rights Commission was formed after the West Virginia League of

Women Voters, the NAACP, the Federal Civil Rights Advisory Committee, and the AFL-CIO lobbied the state legislature successfully. The Commission discovered that in 1963, there were eighty-eight all-Black schools still operating in the state. A meeting held in June 1964 by the State Board of Education found that only five counties still supported all-Black schools, including McDowell.

Gary High School



By early 1965, it had become obvious that McDowell County would need to do more than allow voluntary integration to previously all-white schools. Shortly after a consultant had published a scathing remark against McDowell's controversial and discriminatory policies against Black students. The county adopted a plan to merge its segregated school systems. Black students at Gary District High School would attend Gary High School. The building would be repurposed as an integrated elementary

school. The segregated school systems were merged by the spring of 1966. By the fall, all Black students in the county attended integrated schools. The repurposed Gary District High School remained open for elementary students until it merged with a school in Welch in 1975.



**Congratulations to our National President,
Dr. Sandra J. Harris,
Recipient of 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award,
Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan**

**Dr. Harris – We are proud of you and your
accomplishments.**



Distinguished Alumni Award

This award is given to alumni who have achieved extraordinary distinction in their chosen field, demonstrated unusual service to others, and maintained a continuing interest in Eastern Michigan University.

Generally, recipients have been graduates of EMU for more than 25 years.

Dr. Sandra J. Harris Director of Graduate Education, Concordia University - Ann Arbor, MI.

As a three-time alumna of Eastern Michigan University, Dr. Sandra Harris has been an ambassador for EMU for over 50 years. Harris holds a bachelor's in business education, a master's in guidance and counseling, a specialist certification, and a doctorate degree in educational leadership.

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Bill Madison, Editor At Large
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She served as an adjunct professor at EMU teaching courses in educational leadership to aspiring school administrators – a role she achieved with distinction.

“Dr. Harris is well known for her work in diversity, equity and inclusion,” said Gregory A. Peoples, former John W. Porter Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and Staff Emeritus at EMU. “She is frequently called upon to serve as a panelist by college students on Black educational leadership, equity, and inclusion in higher education.”

She began her professional career serving Ann Arbor Public Schools working as a teacher, vocational coordinator, assistant principal, and personnel director. Eventually, Dr. Harris was hired as the first female Superintendent for the Oak Park School district leading educational services for the district’s eight schools attended by 4,500 students and supported by over 450 staff members.

Currently, Harris serves as the first African American woman to hold the title of Director of Graduate Programs in the School of Education at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. In this role, she advocates for underrepresented populations through partnerships with local school districts that improve cultural competencies for students at Concordia.

Her involvement has been extensive with various professional affiliations, having held membership in Michigan Association of School Administrators, Teacher Education Advisory Board, Phi Delta Kappa, Metropolitan Detroit Alliance of Black Educators and American Association of School Personnel Administrator sand certifications in Secondary School Teacher, Vocational Education, Secondary School Administrator, Central Office Administrator and Superintendent Certifications.

Additionally, she has received several honors: Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated’s 2013 Women of Achievement, 2008 Women of Courage by The Minerva Educational Development Foundation, 2004 Business Direct Weekly’s Most Influential Women, and the Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council’s 2004 Women of Distinction Award. Dr. Harris is an active member of many public service organizations including the Ann Arbor (MI) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Ann Arbor Alumnae Chapter; and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Incorporated; and is a member of Second Baptist Church of Ann Arbor. Her continued connection to EMU is illustrated through her support of programming efforts from EMU Day in Lansing to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.

We Celebrate and Honor Lawrence Scott Swayne



Join us honoring and celebrating Lawrence Scott Swayne, better known as Coach Swayne! He is the son of the late Lawrence Swayne and Marvelene Swayne of Bluefield, WV. He is the oldest son of their eight children. He was born and raised in Gary, WV located in McDowell County. A 1970 graduate of Gary High School, Coach Swayne was an active student athlete lettering in both football and basketball.

He was the first African American to play the position of quarterback in the newly integrated school, receiving all-area and all-state honors. Following

high school, Coach Swayne's talents on the football field landed him a scholarship to West Virginia State University to play quarterback. There he graduated in under four years to earn his Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and Social Studies.

Coach Swayne remained in Charleston, WV and began his teaching career at Valley Grove Elementary, then moving to Taft Elementary teaching sixth grade. After his short stint as an elementary school teacher, he was hired as an American History teacher, at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School where he also coached football, basketball, and track for 13 years.

Upon the consolidation of Woodrow Wilson and Lincoln Junior High Schools, because of the opening of Capital High School in 1989, Coach Swayne moved to teaching at Stonewall Jackson Junior High, later becoming a middle school, now known as West Side Middle School.

At Stonewall Junior High, Coach Swayne taught West Virginia History, and coached football, basketball, and track. He even served as interim Assistant Principal and was an active participant in the MAAK project:

Maximizing the Achievement of African American students in Kanawha County. In the fall of 2004, Coach Swayne became a member of the Capital High School teaching staff.

At Capital he has served as teacher, Dean of the CHANGES program, assistant basketball coach from 2003-2008, and mentor through his leadership in various clubs and organizations.

Over the years, it is no secret that Coach Swayne has amassed numerous football, basketball, and track county championships. In sixteen years of coaching basketball at Stonewall Junior High, He led his teams to win eleven county championships. His final two seasons as head basketball coach earned two more county championships, finishing the 2012-2013 championship season undefeated. In 2000, Coach Swayne was named Junior High Coach of the year in the state of West Virginia. He led the Stonewall Jackson Generals to unprecedented victories and championships as their head football coach. Over the past decades as head coach, his teams have won seventy-five out of eighty games, including a 36-game winning streak, and for five consecutive years, his team earned the honor of county champions. This fall he resigned as head football coach of West Side Middle School. He currently still coaches girls' basketball as an assistant coach at Nitro High School, where he helped lead the team to the WVSSAC Girls Basketball AAA State championship in 2021.

Coach Swayne's legacy as a coach, teacher, mentor, and commitment to serving his community, and greater Charleston area at large is second to none. His career in education, coaching, and serving the many generations of students entering the doors of Charleston-area schools. He served just over 40 years as a Kanawha County Schools teacher and continues to serve as a coach and mentor to so many. He is a man of God and is a member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Charleston, WV.

He is the proud father of seven children: Tonya, Scotty, Larry, Mercedes, Isabella, Isaiah, and Jeremiah; five grandchildren: Mikayla, Arianna, Taylor, Carter, and Chelsea, and loving husband to Dr. Jaclyn Swayne.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARNIQUE HEATH ROBINSON



Marnique Heath Robinson, the daughter of Margo Walker Heath, class of 1958, was appointed to Chair of the Board of her architecture firm, making her the company's highest-ranking executive. Marnique has been a principal with STUDIOS Architecture for 10 years.

STUDIOS Architecture is an international architecture and design firm specializing in commercial architecture and interiors with offices in Washington, DC, New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Paris, France, Lyon, and Mumbai, India. In her role as Chair of the Board,

she will guide the vision and direction of the firm, with a focus on positively impacting social and environmental justice issues through design.

The firm has forged relationships with groundbreaking and innovative clients throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Clients range from tech start-ups to private developers, universities to civic organizations, as well as name brands including Coach, Disney, Google, LinkedIn, Lyft, Major League Baseball (MLB), Microsoft, Nike, Pandora, Samsung, Sony, and Time, among others. Free from disciplinary silos that limit innovation, the firm's diverse and experienced team applies a range of insights gained across all work areas from master planning to interiors. Each client's solution is unique to them and responsive to context, program, and people.

"It is a momentous time to be stepping into this role," notes Marnique, STUDIOS has built a reputation for both a collaborative spirit and for pushing boundaries to create transformative design solutions. I am excited about the opportunities we have as a firm to have influence through our work.

Happy Heavenly Birthday Tanya Denise Madison Morrison, Esquire



Tanya Denise Madison Morrison, Esquire was born on **April 1**, 1963, to William (Billy) and Norma Allen Madison in Washington, DC. She was the second of two siblings, Dyrell being the first. Tanya was one of the most courageous, inspiring, and encouraging women you would ever want to meet. She was spirit filled, graceful and beautiful, inside, and out! Tanya was also very authentic and always lived life on her own terms and to her own God led rhythm. She often paraphrased Psalm 118:17 by saying – *“I will not die but will live to share the power of the Lord.”*

At age 14, she was employed by Edwards Trucking Company, Clinton MD, as an Office Clerk and at age 16, by IBM in downtown Washington, DC as one of their

youngest and most efficient Office Assistants – all while attending Surattsville High School in Clinton, MD.

Tanya was granted a full scholarship to Northeastern University in Boston, MA, where she earned (at the top of her class) a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. She went on to earn a Juris Doctorate from Howard University School of Law in Washington DC; an International Law Studies Certificate from the University of Nairobi in Kenya, East Africa; and other continuing education certifications in entrepreneurship in law and real estate.

In 2015, Tanya became a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Metaphysics, Sedona, AZ where she was earlier ordained “Minister.”

She went home to be with The Heavenly Father on January 27, 2017.

To God Be the Glory.

Board of Directors Member, Ronald Bell Excited About His Daughter Graduating from High School



My little girl is graduating from Gwynn Park High School, Brandywine, MD this year. Where has the time gone?

I am so proud that my daughter, Taeler Rose Bell. On April 6, just before her sixth birthday, Taeler was afforded the opportunity to meet President Obama and become a part of history. I am so grateful that my Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Delman Coates who chose her to go with the Mt. Ennon Baptist Church Children's Choir to sing at a prayer breakfast at the White House. My baby girl is just so special, everyone that meets her, loves her. This is a forever memory that I will continue to share every opportunity I get. It also reminds me of how much I miss former President Barack Obama.

She recently received her Fire Fighter Certification and is now working on her Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification. I thank God for her and all my beautiful and successful children Nia, Cumy and Laronda.

MUSING

(a period of reflection or thought)

WITH GARY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN:

The word “LIE” from children was a cuss word especially if you said it to an adult.

You could walk at night in the dark because we had no streetlights, and had no FEAR?

You could THUMB A RIDE without being abducted?

You went to see your girlfriend and knew that her daddy was always looking, and told you when it was time for you to leave?

That the word or feeling of HUNGRY was never an issue because someone always had an extra “bean in the pot” for all of us?

Bad behavior was rewarded with a belt or a switch that you had to go to the tree and get it?

GROUNDED, and no number FIVE (5) to see BO RULER AND THE COOLERS for one month?

That you sat in the balcony at the two movie theaters because of RACISM?

You did not dare kill a cricket, it is bad luck, the same was true if you put a hat on the bed!

We welcome others that you may recall!





*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

Your Loved One who transitioned and was a student or dependent of a Gary District or Gary High graduate, leaves a legacy through their walk of faith that does more than point us back to a wonderful life remembered. It also points us forward in hope to an amazing celebration that is to come. Within the last few months, the following individuals, transitioned to be with the Heavenly Father, there may have been others:

- ❖ Doris Holloway-King
- ❖ Henry Neal Richardson
- ❖ Ronnie English
- ❖ Col/Ret. Vandy L. Miller
- ❖ Cheryl (Geter) Grace
- ❖ Carmen Anderson Goode
- ❖ Peggy Cloyd
- ❖ Dorothy Lapsley
- ❖ Joanne Smith
- ❖ Roland Stephney, Jr.
- ❖ Edwin Wilkerson
- ❖ Corcoran Holt
- ❖ Charles Nathaniel Ratcluff
- ❖ Viola English
- ❖ Shelia Cunningham
- ❖ Joseph Alexander Forbes
- ❖ Jannie Marie White Burks
- ❖ Ernestine Davis Pendagrass
- ❖ James Daniels
- ❖ Henry Neal Richardson
- ❖ Eclester O'Neal
- ❖ Brenda Maxwell
- ❖ Yvonne Maxwell Barker
- ❖ Kenneth Maxwell
- ❖ Larry Lane
- ❖ Frederick Ray Rash
- ❖ Jannie White
- ❖ Evelyn Joanne (Smith) Williams
- ❖ Jordan M. Smith
- ❖ Frank Buenrostro
- ❖ Larry Hairston, Mayor, Gary, WV
- ❖ Rebecca (Becky) Smith Griffin
- ❖ Katherine (Sanders) Malone
- ❖ Velma Green Burke
- ❖ Kamara Franklin
- ❖ J.T Horton
- ❖ Frederick Ray Rash
- ❖ David "Mike" Smith
- ❖ Barbara Eggleston
- ❖ Carolyn Greene
- ❖ Barbara Phillip
- ❖ Pauline Hairston Smith
- ❖ Carolyn Blakely Price
- ❖ Emma Clemons
- ❖ Tamp Watkins
- ❖ Betty Jean Geter-Gatling