

History of

Creekland Middle School

On August 19, 1996, Creekland Middle School opened its doors to students. It opened as a replacement facility for what was known as Lawrenceville Middle School, thus bringing with it the rich history associated with the former school.

Lawrenceville Middle first opened in 1971–72. The school operated on ‘The Hill’ at the corner of Oak and Perry streets in Lawrenceville while the school’s site at 732 Hi-Hope Road was being developed. That year, the school housed 383 seventh and eighth-grade students. The sixth-grade population remained at Lawrenceville Elementary and Dyer Elementary until 1974. In February, 1972, the original portion of the facility opened for the first time under the principalship of J. E. Richards. The new facility was constructed with the open classroom concept in mind.

The following years brought growth and expansion. In 1974, the first expansion phase opened and the sixth grade was added to the Lawrenceville Middle School campus. That year, enrollment grew to 810 students. A second part of the expansion program was completed in 1979, when the kitchen and cafeteria portion of the building was completed. From 1972 through 1979, the school lunch program was operated as a satellite program with all food being prepared at Dyer Elementary and transported to Lawrenceville Middle. In 1983, a third addition was opened as the enrollment soared to 1,068 middle school youngsters. By this time, students were entering sixth grade at Lawrenceville Middle School from Dyer, Grayson, Benefield and Lawrenceville elementary schools.

As growth continued, J. E. Richards Middle School opened in the fall of 1987 to relieve Lawrenceville Middle of approximately 200 students. However, McKendree Elementary was added to the school’s attendance zone.

In the spring of 1996, the Lawrenceville Middle facility closed its doors. The next fall, buses delivered the students to their new school, Creekland Middle. Hailed as the largest middle school in Georgia and one of the largest in the country, Creekland Middle welcomed 2,330 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to an exciting new school year. The sheer size of the 276,000 square foot facility gained media attention. The school had 100

FAST FACTS

Address: 170 Russell Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Prior to 1996, Creekland MS was Lawrenceville MS.

Principals of Lawrenceville MS were:

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| 1969–72 | J. E. Richards |
| 1972–73 | Gary Gibson |
| 1973–75 | Richard Hawkins |
| 1975–84 | Joe McKelvey |
| 1984–85 | Hal Barnes |
| 1985–87 | Dr. Wendell Jackson |
| 1987–96 | Joan Akin |

The following have been principals of Creekland Middle School:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1996–2000 | Joan Akin |
| 2001–2006 | Dr. Donna Lee |
| 2006–2011 | Dr. Bill Kruskamp |
| 2011–Present | Dr. Eddie Maresh |

School Colors: Green, Silver, White

School Mascot: Eagle

Historians: Jane Hughes and Joan Akin, Lawrenceville Middle (For further information on Lawrenceville Middle School, see History of Central Gwinnett-Lawrenceville High School.)

academic classrooms, 10 special education rooms, seven computer labs, two family and consumer science labs, two gymnasiums, a two-story media center, and a cafeteria large enough to seat 500 students. This impressive middle school facility sits on 46 acres just north of Lawrenceville, Georgia.

More important than the size of the facility are the programs and educational opportunities within Creekland. To proactively address the topic of student achievement in relation to the size of schools, a study team made up of parents, teachers, and administrators reviewed the research data and organized Creekland so that size enhances rather than impedes student achievement.

In order to maintain a personalized environment and maximize learning opportunities, Creekland students

have been randomly divided into five instructional communities. Each community consists of 500 to 600 students, the optimum size recommended by some educational researchers. Each community has an equal distribution of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who, once assigned, remain in that community for the duration of their middle school years. To further build the “community” concept, siblings are assigned to the same community. This organization allows the teachers, assistant principal, and counselor of each community to get to know the entire family and to provide a strong continuity of services for students.

Creekland Middle’s communities provide a sense of belonging to a smaller group of students. Many students, however, want and need broader experiences and contact with students beyond the smaller community group. As a result all students from a grade level are randomly assigned into Connections classes. This portion of the day provides opportunities for cross-community classes and promotes contact and interaction outside the instructional community. It also helps to build loyalty and oneness for Creekland Middle as a single unit.

Creekland Middle School is a large school, but size does not preclude the successful and effective delivery of instruction in a warm and personal environment. The individual needs of students are met through programs that maintain the personal identity of each student. Our mission at Creekland Middle is to ensure “Learning for

All.” Our focus on continuous improvement is making a difference for our students. Our staff members have built a professional learning community, collaborating to determine the most effective instructional strategies to ensure student learning. The result... Creekland Middle offers challenging and enriching learning opportunities and students continue to achieve at high levels.

