



MHS Alumni Restoring Historic School Landmarks

The entrance to the Newby campus (originally the Mooresville High School campus) has been a familiar scene to Mooresville residents for more than 150 years. Even before the construction of the current elementary school, certain landmarks such as the archways, bench and sundial statue were a familiar sight to passersby.



Unfortunately, the sundial statue and the bench it sat beside aged and weakened. The bench was donated to the school by the MHS Class of 1913, while the sundial was donated by the Class of 1924. Due to safety concerns, the school facilities staff has secured the statue in a safe area and dismantled the crumbling bench last fall.

The Mooresville High School Alumni Association began a campaign last fall to restore the landmarks and the campaign is about to come to a successful conclusion.

“We were all saddened to see the original bench crumbling after 100 years of use, so it was important to us to replace it,” said MHS Alumni Association President Steven Smith ('77). “We’re thrilled to be able to announce that the project is completely funded and we’ll be able to restore the area to its original beauty in the near future.”

The funds to replace the bench have been donated by three sisters, alumni Yvonne Capps Rivers ('59), Sandy Capps Miller ('62) and Sharon Capps Staublin ('65).

“All of us remembered the bench from our time at school on that campus,” said Yvonne Capps Rivers. “We are happy to be able to keep this piece of school history alive with the replacement.”

Several other alumni also donated to the fund and their donations will assist with the refurbishment and placement of the sundial. “We are grateful to our alumni in assisting us in maintaining the strong connection to our past as we look toward the future,” said Superintendent David Marcotte.

All of the donors will be recognized at the MHS Alumni Banquet on Saturday, April 25, at 6:30p.m. in the Mooresville High School cafeteria. The Academy Museum on the Newby campus will also be open from 1:00-5:00 on April 25 for those who might want to walk the campus or see school history information. The bench and sundial installations will take place later this spring, as the weather permits.



To learn more about the history of Mooresville Schools and the Newby campus, visit www.MooresvilleSchools.org and click on “About Us.” Information about the MHS Alumni Association is available at www.MooresvilleSchools.org/Alumni.

PHOTOS:

TOP: The 1930 MHS yearbook photo includes the sundial (just to the left of the base of the telephone pole) and the bench (to the left of the archway). The buildings in the photo are the 1911-1959 Mooresville High School building (now demolished) and the Academy building with a front wing which was part of the building from 1883-1936. The front wing was removed when Newby Memorial Elementary School was built in 1936.

MIDDLE: Students Jot Comer and Beldon Wade near the sundial in the 1950 MHS yearbook.

LEFT: The bench being enjoyed by students in the 1949 MHS yearbook.