

Emerson Turns 90 (90 Facts about Emerson)

1. Emerson School opened its doors for the first time in the fall of 1923.
2. Mrs. Maxine Stanford Austin was a member of the first 7th grade class at Emerson in 1923. She was a published author, community activist, and a member of the Oklahoma Writer's Association. She lived to be 102 years old and passed away in February, 2013.
3. In 1943, when Enid High burned, Emerson was used to house high school students for approximately 4 years while Emerson students returned to elementary schools.
4. Emerson Irish Logo was drawn by Ruth Ann Sailors, an art teacher at Enid High whose children attended Emerson.
5. The first cafeteria was in Room 108 and in 1936 the present cafeteria was added.
6. In 1986, the band and chorus rooms and girls locker rooms were renovated. In 1986, the band and chorus rooms were on the 4th floor.
7. In 1964, the shop annex was added to Emerson. It was first used for Industrial Arts and then later for Technology Education.
8. In 2011 the annex was changed in Band and Orchestra rooms.
9. In 1975, the upstairs gym was added with new girls/boys locker rooms.
10. In 2011, the 4th floors rooms were used for Technology Education and a computer lab.
11. In October 1973, when Enid had the flood, the downstairs gym was flooded. Chuck Hart was coaching and remembers practices had to be held at the high school.
12. Mary Margaret Philbrick was Emerson's secretary for 35 years.
13. The summer of 2004, ceilings were lowered and central air and heat was placed in every classroom as part of a bond issue.
14. Mary Johnson taught English and Spanish at Emerson for 37 years.
15. STUCO Officers of 1999-2000 were responsible for the buried time capsules. Buried on Jan. 3, 2000 and scheduled to be opened Jan. 3, 2050.
16. Opera Star Leona Mitchell went to school at Emerson.
17. NFL Indianapolis Colts star, John Holt went to school at Emerson.
18. LPGA Tour participant, Stacy Prammanasudh went to school at Emerson
19. Editor in Chief of Oklahoma Today, Louisa McCune went to school at Emerson.
20. Former State Senator and Enid resident, Norman Lamb, went to school at Emerson.
21. In the early years at Emerson, students were known as the "Greenies".

22. In the early 1950's, the mascot name changed to "Shamrocks".
23. In the 1980's, the mascot name changed to "Irish" and it remains as Emerson celebrates 90 years.
24. Cindy Smith taught at Emerson for 30 years and 29 of those were all in Room 106.
25. The first principal of Emerson was Rex D. Cleveland and he served 6 years.
26. The second principal of Emerson was B. Roy Daniel and he served 23 years.
27. The third principal of Emerson was D. Bruce Selby and he served for 1 year.
28. The fourth principal of Emerson was O. T. Autry and he served for 6 years. Mr. Autry left Emerson to be Enid High School's principal.
29. The fifth principal of Emerson was Sanford H. Newsom and he served for 17 years.
30. The sixth principal of Emerson was Gary Kirtley and he served for 5 years.
31. The seventh principal of Emerson was Ron Garrison and he served for 10 years.
32. The eighth principal of Emerson was Alan E. Corr and he served for 12 years.
33. The ninth principal of Emerson was Larry Mendenhall and he served for 3 years.
34. The tenth principal of Emerson was Kim Jones and she served for 5 years. Mrs. Jones was also the first female principal.
35. The eleventh and current principal of Emerson during its 90th year celebration is Doug Stafford. This is Mr. Stafford's 2nd year.
36. When Emerson was built, classrooms had no air conditioners, but had high ceilings with class panels above doors to help vent the rooms.
37. In 1929, When Mr. Roy Daniel was principal, Emerson had 23 teachers.
38. The drawing on the downstairs gym wall was painted by Emerson's art teacher, Cheryl Swanson in 1979.
39. Emerson's first auditorium was where the current library is now.
40. At the beginning of the 2008-09 school year, Emerson went from a junior high of 7-8-9 grades to a true middle school educating students in 6-7-8 grades.
41. The STUCO President of the 1958-59 school year was Doyle Newsom; Vice-President was Bill Buchanan; and the school emblem was the Shamrock.
42. The words to Emerson's school song are: "Emerson, Emerson; You're the dearest school to me; Emerson, Emerson; Staunch and true we'll ever be; For your colors green and white; Always will be in the right; Dearest school beneath the sun; Dear Emerson".
43. The STUCO President of the 1999-2000 school year was Charles Snyder and Vice-Presidents were Nick Jackson and James Hempfling.
44. When Emerson was built, all classrooms had wooden floors.

45. The first girls' basketball coach was Rose Lipps.
46. Harli Hitt, a 6th grader during Emerson's 90th year, is the 4th generation of students that have gone to Emerson. Her great grandfather, maternal grandparents and mother went to Emerson.
47. Mrs. Dorice Allen was Emerson's Librarian for 30 years. She retired in 1996 and the library is named after her.
48. Cathie Louise Callaway Dyche was an art teacher in the Enid Public School system for 18 years with most of those at Emerson. Cathie passed away unexpectedly in 2002.
49. Wanda Sterling taught English 37 years, with 34 years at Emerson.
50. Ronald Driskell was STUCO President in 1968-69 school year and Vice-President was Charles Dougherty.
51. Dade Maloney was the boys' basketball coach at Emerson for 19 years. His teams won several city championships and had some seasons with no losses.
52. Debbie Hart taught Home Economics at Emerson for 29 years in the same room.
53. Emerson's administrative offices were relocated from the 2nd floor to the 1st floor in January 2012.
54. The offices on the 2nd floor were turned into a conference room and the principal's office was added into Room 208 to make a larger computer lab.
55. Beginning with the 2012 school year, Emerson students had a newly remodeled auditorium with new paint, new carpet runners, new chairs, and refurbished hardwood floors.
56. Vickie Baldwin taught math at Emerson for 28 years all in Room 207
57. In 1985, Emerson football coach Ray Watson, changed the music part of the school song to the Notre Dame Victory March.
58. Sadly, two Emerson students died in separate house fires; Adam Wind and Jenni O'Mara.
59. Former Enid Mayor Doug Frantz went to school at Emerson and was president of his ninth grade class.
60. Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, Emerson's upstairs gym was fully air-conditioned for the first time.
61. At the beginning of the 90th year, Emerson teachers used a keyless entrance system to enter the building.
62. At the beginning of the 90th year, Emerson had an elevator for the first time.
63. Painting the center of the downstairs gym floor with a shamrock was one of the 1972-73 Student Council projects.

64. The Class of 1931 presented a statute of the school's namesake, Ralph Waldo Emerson as a gift to the school.
65. In 1964, Emerson students selected "Rascal" by Sterling North as their favorite Sequoyah book. This year, 2013, students selected "After Ever After" by Jordan Sonnerblick as their favorite.
66. Mechanical Drawing class was offered in the 1971-72 school year and Mr. Joseph White was the teacher.
67. Magazine Drives at Emerson were the primary fundraiser for many years. Each grade and homerooms would compete to see who could sell the most magazine orders and raise the most money.
68. Nettie Sanner was Emerson's head Cheerleader for the 1971-72 school year.
69. Emerson boys' basketball team won the city championship with a 60-35 win over Longfellow in the 1971-72 school year and there was many more over the years.
70. During Emerson 90th year, the cafeteria has two serving lines. Current prices are: student breakfast \$1.25, lunch, \$2.75; adult breakfast \$1.75 and lunch \$3.25.
71. Emerson school plays were always a popular event. For the school play in Feb. 1972, "Books & Crooks" and students paid 50 cents to watch. The school play for 2012-13 was "Going To Grandma's House" and "Goblins & Gravediggers" and students paid \$2.00 to watch.
72. Emerson's downstairs gym held many basketball games through the years, but in 2010-11 year, the bleachers had been taken out and now it is used by PE classes.
73. Beverly Chapman, a present Emerson kitchen helper, went to Emerson in the 1950s and remembers one of the options for lunch was a Sloppy Joe sandwich and Fritos. She paid 50 cents for her lunch and it was her favorite.
74. The redbud tree in front of Emerson was planted by Becky Cummings along with Emerson PTSA members to help beautify the school in 1995.
75. Beginning with 2012-13 year, the Home Economics room was turned into a classroom; no more Home Ec classes.
76. As Emerson turns 90, Jane Diluzio is the current staff member with the most seniority. Mrs. Diluzio has taught at Emerson 29 years.
77. Bennie Racer taught Geography, OK History, and Civics for 26 years at Emerson from 1966-92.
78. The first computer lab at Emerson was in the late 1980s. The lab was in Room 205 and they were all Apple computers. Mr. Garrison was the principal.
79. Susan Meyer and Myra Harding were the first teachers to teach computer class at Emerson when another computer lab was added on the first floor.
80. At the beginning of the 2012-13 year, classrooms had smart boards, red cat speaker systems, Cisco phone systems, white boards, and students had access to

four computer labs and laptop computers. This was definitely a contrast to 1923 when classrooms had black boards and plenty of chalk.

81. During the 1965-66 year, Emerson Junior High boys basketball team was the city champs. Members of the team were: Craig Vance, John Smith, Jackie Robertson, Paul Keck, Larry Jantz, Dale Busch, Mike Wiggins, Danny Newson, Rodney Richardson, Tim Wright, David Zumwalt, Charles Groves, Rolland Wagner, Dickie Swiggart, David Henneke, and Presley McMahan. Their coach was Bill Brown.

82. In 1966, Emerson coach Bill Brown also coached the Enid American Legion baseball team. He received the Sunday Oklahoma's Sportsman of the Month Award for September for the Enid's teams' first trip to nationals. Enid teams had won six state championships during his ten years.

83. Miss Louise Major, an Emerson English teacher, and a teacher in the Enid Public Schools system for 39 years was elected President of the Oklahoma Education Association during the 1965-66 school year.

84. In 1968, an Emerson track record for the 4x100 relay at a time of 50.6 seconds still stands. Four seventh graders: Tyrone Reed, Wes Hurlbutt, Gary Maxey, and Casper Jackson hold this record.

85. The Emerson high Jump record of 5' 10 1/2" is held by 1979 ninth grader Brian Shewey.

86. Greg Gregory, Brian Shewey, Russell Angleton, and Rosier Porter, Emerson 9th graders of 1979 hold the record for the 4x400 with a time of 3 min. 43.8 sec.

87. Student Council members of the 1959-60 year held their annual "Hobby Week" festivities in Jan. 1960. Thirty-seven students placed their hobbies on display in the library. At an assembly, students with musical hobbies performed.

88. Marie Tinder was proclaimed free-throw champion from Mrs. Rose Lipps girls' gym classes in 1960.

89. In March 1960, two Emerson students from Mr. Lloyd Ray's science classes qualified to attend the State Science Fair in Norman. Larry Lee Carter entered his weather forecasting exhibit and Allen Merry entered his electrical exhibit.

90. In January of 2012, Emerson had a new entrance for students to enter the building. It was on the south side in the center of the building. There are still the southeast and southwest entrances on the south side, but they remain locked during the day.