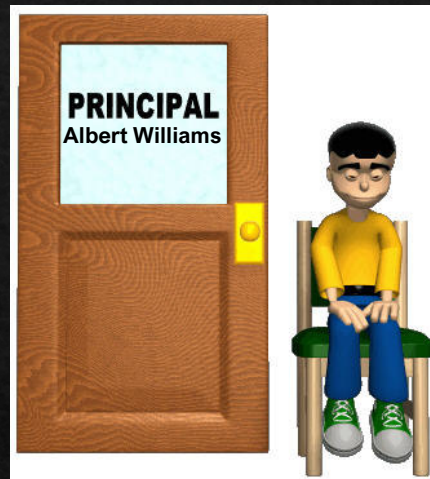


ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

School Days – a talk
with former Principal
Albert Williams and
teachers



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Middle School 1990-2006



ON THE FOREFRONT: The Junior No. 1 Stories

March 18

The 1916 Polio
Epidemic and the
Building of
Trenton's
Municipal Colony

April 1

Closing talk summing
up the findings and
recommendations

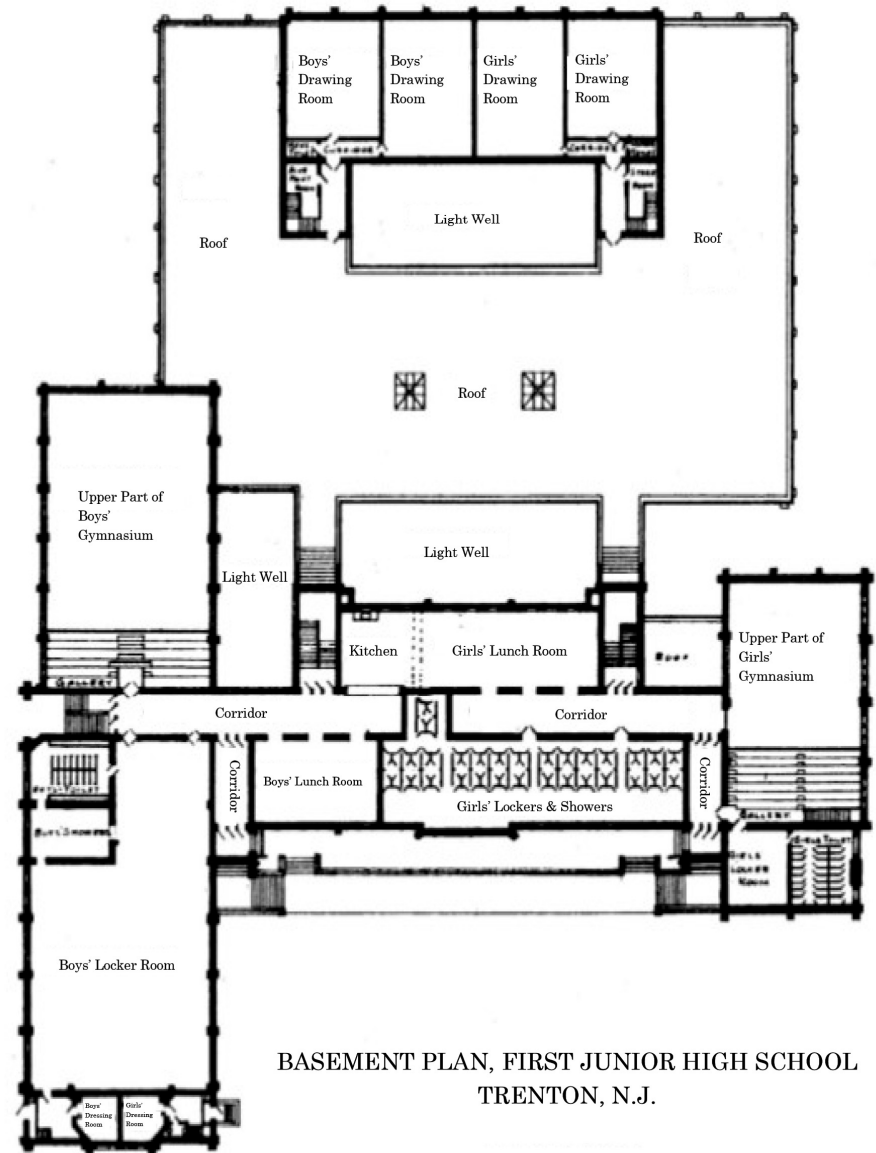
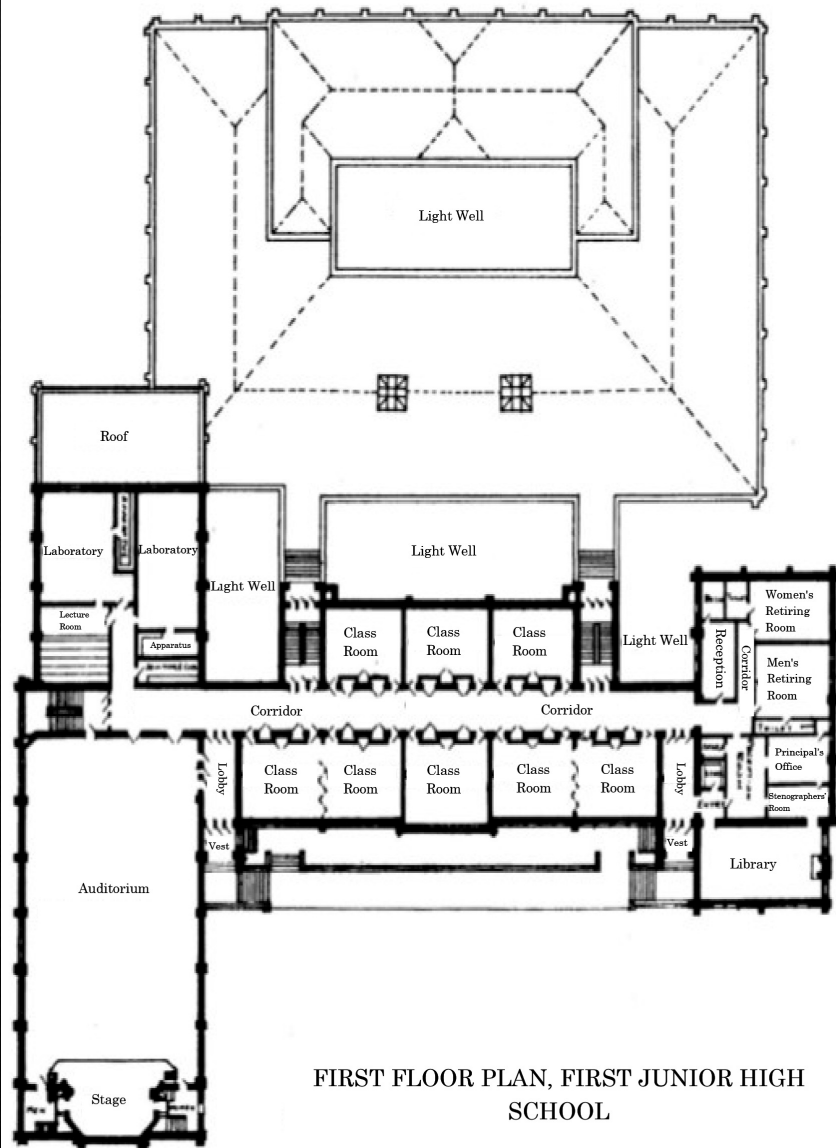
FREE



Renamed as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in 1990



Photo by Gail Robbins, teacher



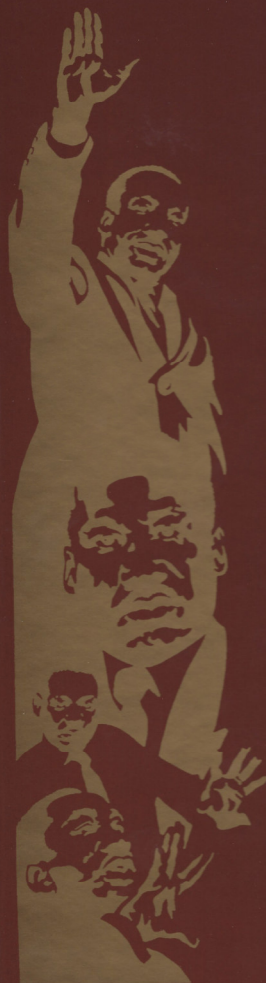
Albert Williams Principal 1979 - 1993

- 1957 Graduate of Junior Number 1.
- 1984 An evergreen tree is planted in front of the school in memory of the late Maynard Preston a former disciplinarian at Junior No. 1.
- 1987 Pod System (grades 8 & 9) and Core System (less complicated than the Pod System, grade 7) helped increase the percentage of students who passed the reading portion of the High School Proficiency from 41.2 in 1986 to 77.9 in 1987. The writing improvement went from 39.2 to 60.5.
 - With the Pod Approach students received a dose of reading and vocabulary in English, social studies, science and even in math and typing.
- Writing was stressed in most classes and students saw their vocabulary words on the blackboard in all of their class rooms.
- Students would move from course to course as a group, so the same four or five teachers have the same group of kids every day, permitting teachers to quickly identify students or groups of students who have specific problems.
- The movement of students was carefully analyzed and planned so that students rarely travel more than a few doors between classes.
- Administrators were able to increase class length from 45 to 48 minutes by reducing time between classes.
- It had also squelched horseplay between classes and consequently reduced discipline problems.

- 1991 As part of President Bush's America 2000 (outlying six National Education Goals to be achieved by 2000) the Trenton Board of Education's PTA/PTO Liaison Committee initiated an annual Districtwide Community Festival at TCHS.
- President of the Trenton Administrators and Supervisors Association for two and a half years.
- 1992 3rd place finish for principal of TCHS, losing to Charlie "Rambo" Ramsey.
- Becomes Director of School Operations at Central Administration.
- Retires in April, 1999.



- 1987 Williams caught a seventh grade student with \$960 in his pocket – “crack money.” After calling the boy's mother in, she fabricated a story for the police and she got back every dime.
- 1991 Omega Program (up to 25 disruptive students from the district housed at MLK) students arrested for assaulting (knocking down) four teachers (1 male and 3 female)
- 1991 A student who allegedly was carrying a .23-caliber pistol and three live bullets in his pocket to school was arrested on weapons charges. The student and two others were first sent to the principal's office because they were suspected of smoking marijuana in a stairwell.
- 1992 A male teacher at MLK is fired by the school district for describing his sex life to a class of student.

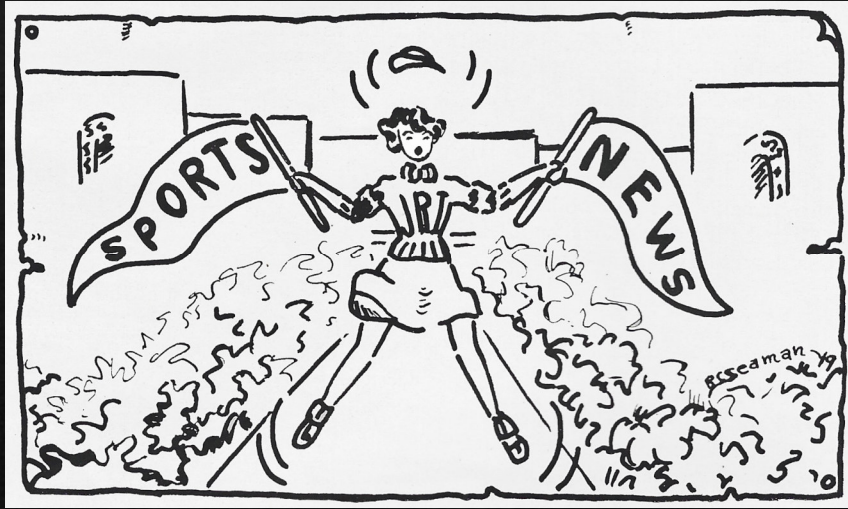


Martin Luther King
Middle School

“A New Beginning”

1995-1996

Trenton, New Jersey



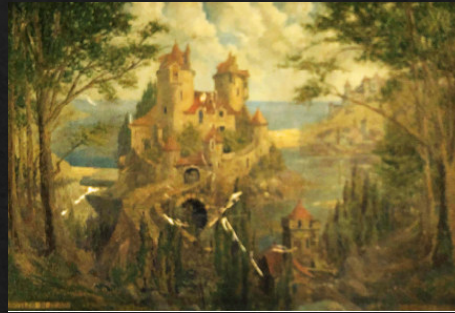




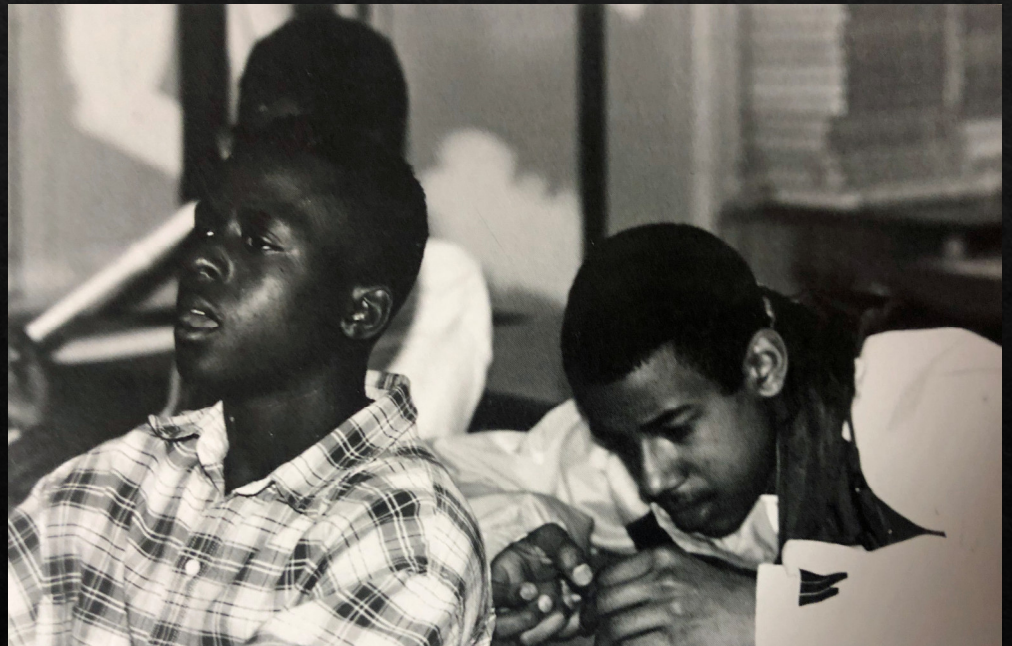
Gureby Tile







"Castles in Spain" above the school's library fireplace, executed by Frank Forrest Frederick, director of the Trenton School of Industrial Arts



SCHOOL CLOSING – JUNE 2006

Junior High School Number One
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School
800 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Trenton, New Jersey 08638

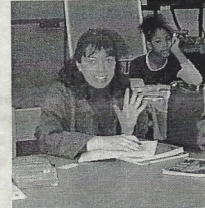
*June 15, 2006
6:00 – 8:00 pm*



1916-2006

Proudly Serving the Trenton Community
for Ninety Years!

Present Day Look



A Present Day Look



Thanks for the Memories

Reflections of a Former Student...

The Junior One community in 1916 was not unlike other rapidly growing communities through America, especially along the Eastern seaboard. The spread of and constant threat of Nazism encouraged many hundreds of thousands to leave their homelands. The quest for religious freedom and humanitarian rights sparked an urge to seek happiness in America, where citizens found much prosperity at the turn of the century. Many of the immigrants settled in culturally and ethnically similar surroundings that reflected their countries of origin. Hence, specific to the North Trenton community, Italians settled on streets commonly known as Pennington, Calhoun, Princeton, Wayne, Brunswick, Southard, Evans, and Paul. Paul Avenue became the toe dividing line. Polish, Hungarian, a Czechoslovakian, and a few Russians settled within an area bounded by Paul, and the Northern sides of Calhoun, Brunswick, Olden, Spruce and several streets on either side of the Olden Avenue bridge. Blacks lived in some of these communities, but our numbers were very, very sparse. East Trenton proved to be the settling area of Trenton, where Blacks chose to live. The Negro, as were we called at that time in American History, was a significantly different immigrant. In fact, we should have not been thought of as immigrants, but rather migrants who simply moved from the South to the more liberal North after the Civil War. We were already in this country before immigrants began to pour into America. In Trenton, we lived on Beaver Street, where the Trenton Board of Education Administration Building now stands. Blacks lived on Monmouth, Clinton, and Grant Avenue, where I lived as a child for a short time. Blacks lived on Sheridan Avenue, and on Jefferson Street, where the Trenton Police Department currently stands. We lived on Seward, Escher, Hart, Poplar, Filmore, Meade, Houghton and Enterprise Avenue, just to name a few.

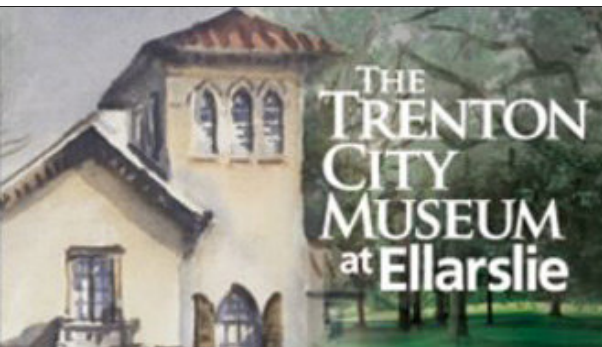
In the midst of massive immigration, northern migration, cultural revolutions, and a quest for religious and political freedom, proponents of federal legislation effecting education increased daily, and the need for new and more modern methods of educating children became a priority. An important aspect of that priority became the building of schools.

This school completed in 1916 represents the first, yes, the first, Junior High School in the United States of America East of the Mississippi River. This school was actually the second Junior High School in the entire country. The first Junior High School was built in Modesto, California. This school's curriculum was designed for students in grades seventh (7th) through ninth (9th) in a non-coeducational setting with equal emphasis upon academic, commercial, domestic and industrial studies.

Junior One was built during a time when there was no national debate regarding a separation of church and state. In fact, its architecture, as many of the building of that era, clearly demonstrates a very close relationship to religion and an acknowledgement of a Supreme Being, and the Heavens. The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost were frequently represented in the groupings of three found throughout the structure of the school.

Albert Williams II, Junior High School #1 Class of 1957

Questions?



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The 1916 Polio Epidemic
and the Building of
Trenton's Municipal
Colony

