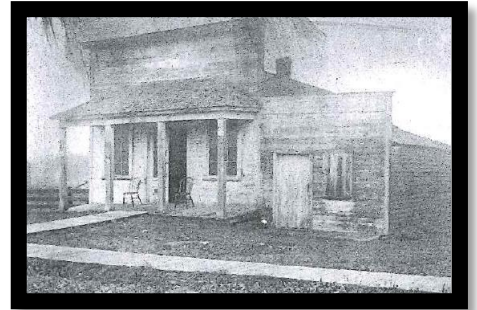
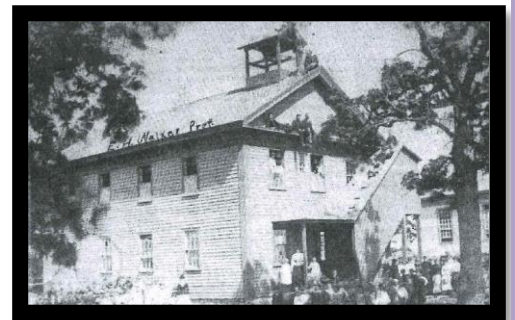


School District of Westfield

1856 The first one-room schoolhouse was built on the corner of Fourth Street and Main Street in the Village of Westfield. The school was a little red building with two windows, a few desks, a table, and a bench for the teacher. One teacher, Miss Waldo, age 16, was hired to teach reading, arithmetic, writing, spelling, and geography. The surrounding area was home to many one-room schools that served the children in the immediate neighborhood. These schools were for children of all ages/grades and had only one teacher, who in addition to teaching, also kept the school warm and clean.

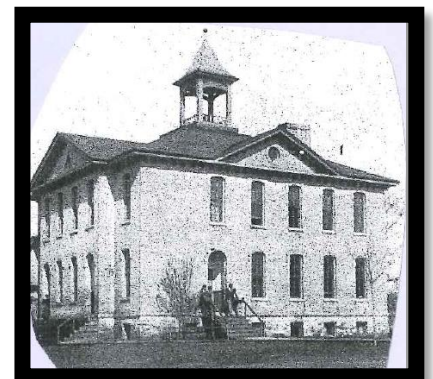


1859 There were enough families living in the area to justifying building a larger school. The original school was purchased by Sam Crocket and turned into a general store. The second school was built on land donated by village founder, Robert Cochrane. This school was located farther south on Main Street, and had two rooms, one above and one below. It served as a grade school for the next 28 years. When this school was replaced, it was moved to the corner of Third and Main Streets.

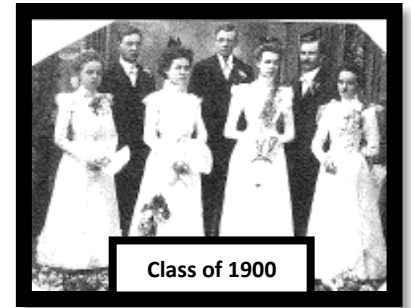


1882 A 3-year high school program was adopted. Thirty-seven students enrolled. There were three graduates in 1886 and eight in 1887. The Westfield Union Free High School District #1 was formed.

1887 A new school was built on Main Street in Westfield. (Currently the location of Supervalu) The grade school students were downstairs and the high school students upstairs. There were two teachers, and their salary was \$90 per month. The graduating class of 1889 had 11 students and the graduation exercises were held in the Fenner Opera House.



1900 A 4-year high school program was adopted. It offered only two courses of study, the Teachers' Training Courses and the General Courses for College and University preparation. With only 19% of 15–18-year-olds attending high school in 1900 and only 9% of 18 year olds with a high school diploma, courses offered was limited. The first class to graduate from the four-year high school in 1900 had 7 graduates.



1904 The school on Main Street was doubled in size with an identical extension on the south side. The larger school would have 4 classrooms down and 4 upstairs along with the principal's office. This school would serve the district for over 60 years. When the new high school was built in 1922 this building continued to be an elementary school until a new elementary school in Westfield was constructed in 1968.



1912 Oxford Union Free High School District was established. The school was one room. The first class which graduated in 1913 had 3 students (all girls).

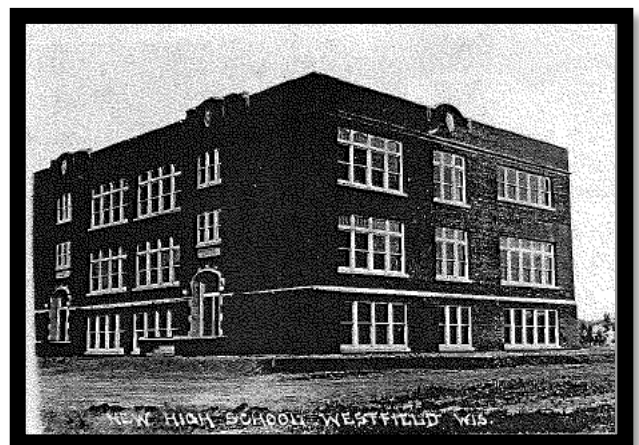
1915 The Westfield Union Free High School District mascot became the Pioneer, and the colors purple and gold were selected.

1916 Oxford Union Free High School builds a new brick school with a gym. The graduating class had 4 students.

1918 World War I. A majority of the male high school students and staff leave school in April to help in the war effort.

1920 Coloma Union Free High School District was established.

1922 A new high school was built on Thomas Street in the Village of Westfield. The



property was a cow pasture prior to the construction of the school. The school had the gym on the lowest level along with agriculture class, drawing room and restrooms. The second level had a balcony to look down into the gym along with a kitchen and sewing classroom, and 3 recitation rooms. The third floor consisted of the library, book room, assembly room, 2 labs, and 3 recitation rooms. At the time it was considered one of the best schools in the state. This school would serve the district for 75 years. The first class to graduate in 1923 had 23 graduates. The last graduation class in 1997 had 91 graduates.

1932 Westfield High School wrote a school song called “We’re Loyal to You Westfield High”. This is still the school song today.

1944 Oxford Union Free High School District purchases its very first school bus on January 17th.

1947 Coloma students began attending high school in Westfield.

1948 Neshkoro students began attending the high school in Westfield.

A gym was added to the High School on the north end of the original 3 story school. The old gym and balcony were remodeled into classrooms.



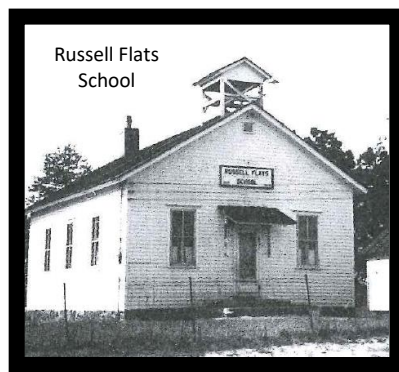
1949 March 28 - a fire at the Oxford High School caused extensive damage. Classes were held in church basements during reconstruction.

1950 An Integration Study was done to weigh the pros and cons of combining the High School in Westfield with the surrounding Elementary Districts.

Town of Crystal Lake, Village of Neshkoro, and Town of Richford joined the Westfield Union High School District. The Class of 1950 had 39 graduates.

1952 Oxford and Endeavor High Schools merge to form Ox-En District. Teachers are shuttled between the two schools daily.

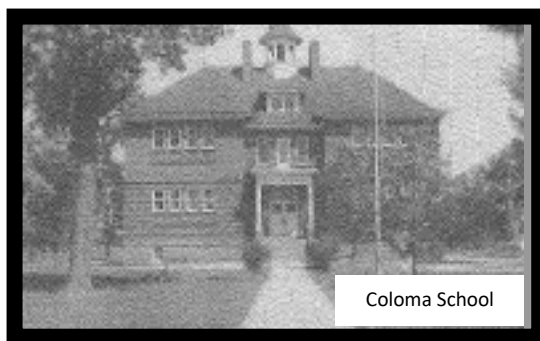
- 1953 The Westfield Union Free High School purchased the School Forest in Harris Township for \$233.50.
- 1954 A 40-acre forest, containing over 30,000 pines is obtained from Elmer Hackbart of Coloma for a school forest.
- 1955 Oxford and Endeavor merger dissolves. Endeavor went to the Portage District and Oxford remained on its own. Blue and white school colors and the Blue Jay mascot are adopted.
- 1957 In April a petition was filed to dissolve the Westfield Union High School District and 15 Elementary School Districts which included the Villages of Coloma, Neshkoro, and Westfield, Towns of Coloma, Richford, Springfield, Newton, Oxford, Packwaukee, Crystal Lake, Dakota, Westfield, and Harris.



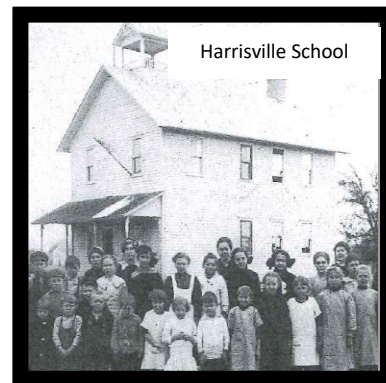
Russell Flats School



Lawrence School



Coloma School



Harrisville School

The Westfield Integrated School District officially held its first annual meeting on July 1, 1957, with the election of 9 school board members, each representing an area of the district. The annual meeting approved a tax levy of \$155,000, a 180-day school year, and set lunch prices at 20 cents.

- 1958 The District purchases the Neshkoro school site, the Haney School, the Germania School, and the Stalker School.
- 1959 Neshkoro Elementary School was remodeled with the addition of a multi- purpose room, kitchen, restrooms, and shower rooms. The school was now 12,177 sq. ft.
- 1960 The south wing addition and music room addition was constructed onto the High School. The south wing was used for junior high students.
- 1961 Remodeling was done inside the High School to move science rooms, move the cafeteria and construct a new shop area.

- 1962 Coloma Elementary School construction was approved at a cost of \$100,000 with 13,600 square feet.

Oxford Union Free High School added 12,177 square feet with a new south wing to their school.



- 1963 The Oxford Union Free High School District joined the Westfield Integrated School District, and the school board was changed from 9 members to 11 members.

School Board members were now elected at the Spring Election and not at the Annual Meeting.



The bus garage and workshop addition were built onto the back of the High School. The board approved up to \$30,000 to do this project.

- 1964 Oxford students began attending high school in Westfield. The Oxford Elementary/High School was now the Oxford Elementary School for students through 8th grade.

- 1967 The current elementary school was built in Westfield. It was a round building with 18 classrooms on the perimeter of the building

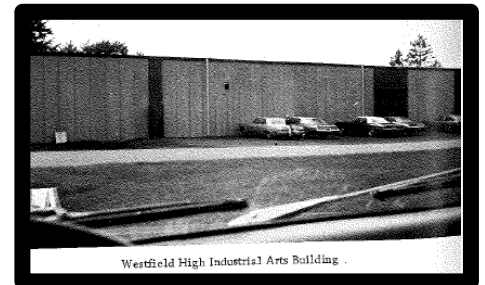


and the gym in the center of the building. It did not have a kitchen or cafeteria. Students went to the high school for lunch. The cost of this building was approved at \$400,000.

1969 The football field and scoreboard were dedicated at the High School.

1973 The annex building at Westfield Elementary was purchased and located at that campus. This building with 1,800 square feet has been used for classrooms, administration offices, and is currently classrooms again.

1974 The Industrial Arts Building was constructed across the street from the High School at a cost of \$140,000. (Currently the parking lot for the Westfield Community Center/Village Hall)



1976 Westfield Integrated School District was designated the legal name School District of Westfield.

The School District purchased 12 acres directly adjacent to Westfield Elementary School at a cost of \$12,500. This land would later be used to build Transportation and Maintenance Buildings.

1978 The old elementary school located on Main Street in Westfield was sold to Alexander Foods Inc. for their future grocery store. Sale was approved for \$12,000.

1979 The Transportation Building was constructed on East Fifth Street in Westfield. The cost of this project was approved at \$130,000 for 4,800 sq. ft.

1980 A cold storage building with 5,000 sq. ft. was constructed across the lot from the transportation building.

1984 A portion of Oxford Elementary School (3 story building and annex) was raised and rebuilt as a result of a \$500,000 question that was passed by a vote of 78



to 1. The new school would be a total of 24,308 sq. ft.

1987 A gym and kitchen/cafeteria area was added to Westfield Elementary and the old gym in the center of the original round school was remodeled into a library. The school now has 32,685 sq. ft.

1990 The Maintenance Building with 2,112 sq. ft. was constructed on East Fifth Street next to the cold storage building.

Classroom additions were built at Coloma Elementary (4,614 sq. ft.), Neshkoro Elementary (5,251 sq. ft.) and Westfield Elementary (east wing) (2,826 sq. ft.).

1992 A new gym was added to both Coloma Elementary and Neshkoro Elementary Schools and the existing gyms were remodeled into libraries along with other remodeling within each school. The Coloma project cost \$723,000 for 11,872 sq. ft. and the Neshkoro project cost \$626,000 for 12,094 sq. ft.

The district had 1,368 students with 200 students at Coloma Elementary, 153 at Neshkoro Elementary, 201 at Oxford Elementary, 387 at Westfield Elementary, and 427 at the High School. The operating budget was \$7.7 million.

1997 The current High School (Westfield Area High School) originally named Pioneer Westfield High School was constructed on the north edge of the Village of Westfield on County Road M. The 60-acre construction site had been a corn field prior to being purchased by the School District. It was approved by the voters in the district with a \$9.3



million referendum. The school is 152,700 sq. ft. The new school would have a capacity of 530 students with a 225-seat auditorium, 4 volleyball courts, 3 basketball courts, 11 learning labs, and 170 computers. The new school library also included the original Master Clock that has stood in the 3rd floor assembly hall since the high school on Thomas Street opened in 1923.

The district enrollment had increased to 1,525 students with 212 students at Coloma Elementary, 158 at Neshkoro Elementary, 242 at Oxford Elementary, 395 at Westfield Elementary, and 518 at the High School.

The district employed over 120 teachers plus administrative and support staff personnel.

The voters approved reducing the number of school board members from 11 to 7 over the next 4 years by combining representation areas and electing one less member in each of the Spring Elections from 1997 – 2000.

- 2000 Oxford Elementary added two relocatable buildings with 2,208 to its campus for additional classrooms. The Oxford campus now totals 26,516 square feet.
- 2001 The family of Melvin Donnor, Coloma Principal from 1935-1942, donated 140 acres to the School District of Westfield. The Melvin Donner Nature Preserve is to be used for educational purposes and the timber sales for scholarships for the district.
- 2002 The Middle School was constructed and attached to the High School. Seventh and Eighth grade students from Coloma, Neshkoro, Oxford and Westfield all moved from their elementary schools to the middle school. Staff were also reassigned to work in the middle school. The Middle School was constructed for \$1 million with 15,252 sq. ft.



The Coloma Cardinals, Neshkoro Eagles, Oxford Blue Jays and Westfield Hawks elementary basketball teams joined under one mascot, the Pioneer.

The Tech Ed Building/Parking Lot located on Thomas Street was sold to the Village of Westfield for \$85,000 for a future Community Center/Village Hall. The Village eventually raised the building and constructed a new building on the north end of the site for their Community Center and Village Hall.

2003 The High School on Thomas Street was sold for \$10,000 to a private individual who submitted the highest bid on the building. The District kept ownership of the football field and track located at that site.

2005 The Multi-Purpose Building was added to the Middle/High School Campus. This project totaled \$400,000 with 10,500 sq. ft. It included a gym size area, restrooms, storage, and a concession kitchen.

2010 The district enrollment was 1,209 students with 110 at Coloma Elementary, 64 at Neshkoro Elementary, 122 at Oxford Elementary, 351 at Westfield Elementary, 168 at the Middle School and 394 at the High School.

In August the Neshkoro Elementary School was closed due to declining enrollment numbers. The 58 students were transferred to the Coloma and Westfield Elementary Schools. All the staff were also transferred to another school in the district.

2014 The district enrollment had dropped to its lowest in decades with a total of 1,062 students, 112 at Coloma Elementary, 102 at Oxford Elementary, 355 at Westfield Elementary, 160 at the Middle School and 333 at the High School.

The district employed 88 teachers plus administrative and support staff personnel. The operating budget for the year was \$12.8 million.

2016 The School District made final construction loan payments on the 1997 High School and the 2007 Multi-Purpose Building. The district no longer has debt on any of the buildings in the district.

2018 The Softball Team (18-0) advanced to the WIAA State Tournament for the first time in school history. They lost a hard-fought game in 11 innings to Poynette with a score of 4-3.

2020 The School District of Westfield and all districts in the state were closed on March 18th through June 30th due to the Coronavirus (COVIN19). The balance of winter sports and all spring sports were cancelled. Scholarship Night and Graduation were done with virtual presentations. Teachers and students did lessons virtually and with mailed packets.

2021 The Girls' Basketball Team (19-6) advanced to the WIAA State Tournament for the first time in school history. They lost to LaCrosse Aquinas (22-0) with a final score of 69-45.

2022 The School District of Westfield hired J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc. in April 2022 to complete a facility study by September 2022 to assist in long-range facility planning. The facility study concentrated on six buildings: the Bus Garage, Coloma, Oxford, and Westfield Elementary Schools, Westfield Area High School, and Westfield Area Middle School.

A facility study is an independent, objective analysis of building and site conditions and an evaluation of the capabilities of the facilities to meet educational and community goals. The facility study is often a critical first step in the planning process, helping the district better understand areas of need and deficiency. The report may be used to inform plans for ongoing maintenance and as a foundation for future master planning or project phasing.

This history will be updated as more pictures and details become available.

If you have historic pictures or articles of our school district that you would like to share, please contact us. Thank you.