

The History and Namesake of Amy Beverland Elementary School

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In 1988, construction began on a new elementary school in the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township. Mr. Don Inskip, Lawrence Township's Transportation Director at the time, secured the fifteen acres of land for the school through the generous donation of The Shorewood Corporation. The land was actually a former corn and soybean farm on Fox Road on the northeast side of the school district.

When it came time to name the school, the community was asked for suggestions as does usually happen when a new school is named. However, the school board members stipulated that they wanted this school to be named after a teacher to honor teachers. John Brill, an Everett I. Brown Company Construction Observer, oversaw the construction or renovation of every school building in Lawrence Township to that date, including Amy Beverland. He, and others, campaigned to have the school named in honor of his first grade teacher at the old Oaklandon School. He was more than once heard saying, "Amy Beverland has always deserved to have a school named in her honor. She was an outstanding teacher." At the end of the naming process, Amy Beverland Elementary School was chosen for the new school's name. John Brill died just weeks after the new school's name was announced.

Miss Amy Beverland was born on July 12, 1900. She was educated and spent most of her life in Indianapolis. She graduated from Oakland High School in 1920. Her teaching

career began at the age of twenty-one, although she received her actual teaching degree from the Teachers College of Indianapolis in 1924. It was a two-year degree. Miss Beverland received her Bachelor's Degree from Butler University in 1941.

Miss Beverland taught in Lawrence Township from 1921 through 1966....46 years! She taught kindergarten and first grade at Oaklandon Elementary School, Fortview Elementary School (now Belzer Middle School), and Indian Creek Elementary School. She retired on June 10, 1966. She was never married. She died on November 22, 1986, bequeathing scholarship money for graduates of Lawrence Township Schools. She is entombed in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis beside her parents. The school has possession of several of Miss Beverland's artifacts, including a photograph of her, two of her reading books, two class pictures, a 1957 paycheck stub from Lawrence Community Bank, and a woven blanket.

The first principal of Amy Beverland was Mrs. Susan Brash (Hintz) and the Home School Advisor was Mrs. Susan Jordan. After three years at that position, Mrs. Jordan became the principal of another township school, Brook Park Elementary School, for four years. After seven years, Mrs. Brash (Hintz) became a part of central office administration. At that time, Mrs. Jordan returned to Amy Beverland where she has been the principal for 20 years. Sadly, on January 26, 2016, Mrs. Jordan died in a tragic accident at the school while saving her precious students from a school bus that was headed towards them.

Today, in its 27th year, Amy Beverland Elementary School is 815 students strong in Grades 1-6 with almost 100 staff members serving them. From its first year of serving students of Lawrence Township from 1989 to 1990, the STARS of Amy Beverland, as they were named back then, HAVE and ALWAYS WILL BE... Sparkling Thinkers Achieving Remarkable Success!