



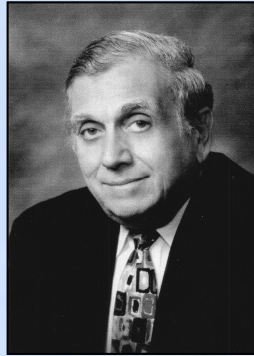
Seymour Gretchko Elementary School

Our School History



Though records indicate a desire for a "walking distance" school to serve the Zox Lakeside community as far back as 1951, population growth did not warrant construction of this school until the early 1990s. Gretchko Elementary School opened in 1995 to serve kindergarten and first grade students.

The school was named in honor of then-Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Seymour Gretchko.



Dr. Seymour Gretchko served as Superintendent of the West Bloomfield School District from January, 1983, to March, 2002 and was named Michigan Superintendent of the Year in 2000. Dr. Gretchko was regarded as an innovator in public education both locally and beyond. He was among the first to recognize the importance of computers to learning, championed the opportunity for non-resident students to enroll by choice, and put all the focus on developing successful learners. Dr. Gretchko died suddenly in 2002, but left behind a strong West Bloomfield School District widely regarded as one of the best in the state.



Gretchko Elementary School was built on land first farmed in the early 1800s. At its peak, the Watchpocket/ Walter Oliver family farm comprised over 140 acres, with livestock and crops, including sheep and apples. The Oliver's sold the farmland acreage in 1956 when taxes increased to a point where farming became unprofitable. Ultimately, the barns and silo were demolished; the farmhouse stands just in front of and east of the school.

A discussion was held on the need of more elementary schools or additions to the present Scotch and Green schools. Possibility of constructing walking distance schools at Zoch's Lakeside Park subdivision and Shady Beach for grades 1-4 were discussed. A general discussion was also

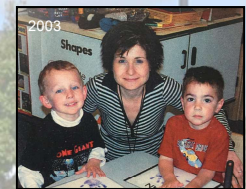
November 1, 1951



Gretchko Elementary School was specifically designed to facilitate early childhood education with flexible classrooms arranged around a central media center. Countertops, windows, restrooms, lockers, and furniture were all scaled down for the youngest learners. Primary colors were used throughout the school. Several additions more than doubled the size of the school, but the design remained cohesive. The original play equipment was supplemented over the years with donations from the PTO.



Dr. Gretchko and Principal Sally Drummond, 1995



Teaching, learning, family, community, and traditions define the Gretchko environment. Spooktacular, Winterfest, Sweetheart Dance, Pine Cone Reading program, and the all-school musical production are annual highlights. Educational innovations such as Mandarin Chinese, project-based learning, and STEM concepts are integrated into the Gretchko routine.



Gretchko earns Blue Ribbon Award, 2007



Preschool was added in the early 2000s and second grade moved from Scotch Elementary School to Gretchko in the fall of 2015.



PRINCIPAL
SALLY DRUMMOND



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