

The history of Haviland Middle School is an interesting and an important part of Hyde Park's past, present and future

On September 16, 1938, the voters in the Hyde Park area voted to consolidate eight rural school districts into one. The vote passed 755 in favor of to 447 against it. One week later five residents were elected to the first Board of Education and Hyde Park Central School District was born.

On October 1, 1938 the voters again cast ballots. This time it was a proposition to build two elementary schools and one junior-senior high school. The total cost of all three schools came to \$1,300,000. President Roosevelt's Federal PWA Funds would pay for \$585,000 of the total. Once again the vote passed.

Proposed sites were selected on October 9th and approved on October 28, 1938. The site for the junior/senior high school was to be on the Benjamin Haviland Farm off Haviland Road. Construction plans were made and executed quickly. President Franklin D. Roosevelt expressed preference for the use of native fieldstone over brick or other materials in the construction of the three buildings. Excavation began on January 1, 1939 and construction in March. Cornerstones were laid in December 1939 and March 1940. All three beautiful stone schools opened their doors on September 3, 1940 to a total student count of 1,173. FDR Junior-Senior High School accommodated 530 of these students.

October 5, 1940, President Roosevelt proudly stood on the majestic front steps of the junior-senior high school building and dedicated all three school buildings to school district. The building on Haviland Road was named Franklin Delano Roosevelt Junior-Senior high with the President's permission. It served the district and towns people well for many years before changes needed to be made.

In 1954, due to over crowding, a brick building was constructed next door to the FDR Junior-Senior High. It became Haviland Junior High and the original building became FDR High. In 1962 Staatsburg Union Free School merged with the Hyde Park Central School District which again over crowded the existing buildings. Plans were made for a new high school and for the two buildings on Haviland Road to be linked together. The construction of these was completed and in 1965 students attend Franklin Delano Roosevelt High on South Cross Road and Haviland Junior High on Haviland Road. In 1976 construction of 2 pod additions were completed on the rear of the high School and the 9th grade was relocated from Haviland to FDR. In 1990 the name of our building was changed to Haviland Middle School.

The wonderful fieldstone Haviland building has served this town for 70 years. Our building represents A Tradition of Commitment to Children.