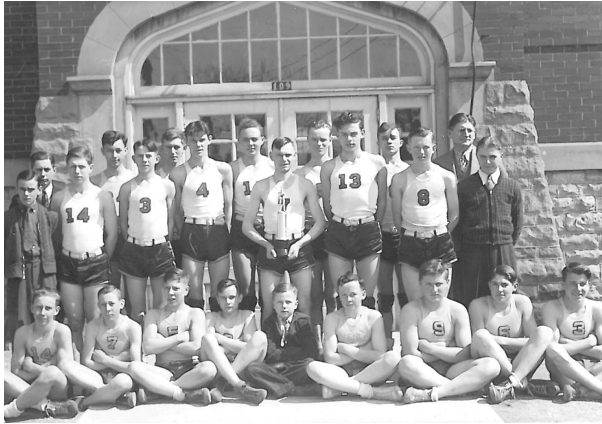




The last Cridersville senior class graduated in 1966, a century after the first school opened in the village. Since then high school students in Cridersville have attended classes in Wapakoneta.

Today the Cridersville School is an elementary building for kindergarten through fourth grade students. All other Cridersville students attend Wapakoneta Middle School, Wapakoneta High School or Apollo Career Center. In 2009 voters of the Wapakoneta School District approved a bond issue to construct a new elementary school in Cridersville on Reichelderfer Road. This new building opened in the fall of 2010. It is a beautiful and spacious facility on an 18-acre site.



Over the years students from Cridersville have had great success. Many have remained in the area while others have lived and worked in places around the world. Their success, whether here in Cridersville or elsewhere, stands as a testament to the quality of our Cridersville Schools, teachers and community.



To learn more about local history, visit the Cridersville Historical Museum at 111 W. Sugar Street. The museum is open the first and third Sunday of each month, March through October, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Special tours are available year round by calling 419-645-4782.



CRIDERSVILLE SCHOOLS

*Dedicated
To
Excellence*



Cridersville Historical Society
111 W. Sugar St. PO Box 2444 Cridersville, Ohio

The Cridersville School Story

The first school was established in Cridersville in 1866. Ephraim and Polly Crider, founders of the village, along with N.A. Murdock, an early merchant, sold a quarter acre from their adjoining farms for the purpose of a school house. It was a one-room, frame building erected at 218 E. Main Street.

By 1875 the village had grown and a new brick school was erected at the corner of Waverly and High Streets. Daniel and Lucinda Phillips sold the land to the Board of Education for \$150. This new building contained four classrooms on two floors. It was a substantial brick structure with arched windows and a bell tower. It was known at the Union School.

By 1901 enrollment at the Union School had reached 214. It was terribly overcrowded. In 1907 a new school was constructed on the same site. It was therefore necessary to demolish the old school to provide space for the new building. While the new school was being built, elementary classes were held in the council room at the Town Hall on N. Gay Street and upper grades attended class above Tom Dotson's Grocery on W. Main Street. When completed the new school contained four classrooms on the first floor and two classrooms and an auditorium on the second floor.



During these years most students did not attend school for twelve grades. Many finished their schooling after the eighth grade, or one or two years of high school. It was not until 1924 that Cridersville School added its first four year high school program. Prior to that year, junior and senior students attended classes and graduated from high school in Lima or Wapakoneta. Most rode the interurban to class each day.



In 1924 a new gymnasium with dressing rooms and a stage was built just east of the school. It became known as the Community Hall. It was the site of many school and community events. It was here that Cridersville basketball teams, boys and girls, competed against area rivals before standing-room-only crowds.

The stage at the Community Hall provided many opportunities for local talents to participate in theatrical productions. Over the years many class plays, guest speakers and graduation ceremonies took place on this stage.

As the village continued to grow, by 1939 it was again necessary to construct a new school building at 300 E. Main Street. This building was to house both elementary and high school students. At the time it was huge compared to the old school on Waverly Street. The citizens of Cridersville were justifiably proud of it. In 1952 a new gymnasium, stage, cafeteria and elementary wing were added to it.

But still the village continued to grow. By 1962 the enrollment in this building had reached 550. It had become terribly overcrowded and the Ohio Department of Education was raising standards for more staff and curriculum in Ohio's schools. Cridersville High School was threatened with charter revocation for failing to meet these new standards.

After reviewing a number of possible solutions, in 1965 the Cridersville Board of Education presented citizens with a choice for consolidation with either the Perry or Wapakoneta school districts. The citizens chose Wapakoneta. Later that year the Cridersville district officially consolidated with the Wapakoneta City School District.

— Continued on back panel —

