

## RB STALL HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY

In August 1962, at 7749 Pinehurst Street, 463 students in grades 8, 9, and 10 saw RB Stall High School become a reality. The **late Mr. George W. Fricks** was its first principal, serving from 1962 to 1975. The alma mater was written by Mr. A. C. Corcoran, a longtime District 4 teacher-principal, and the motto was "Every Man is the Architect of his Future." The school's teams would be known as "Warriors," and the school's colors would be Columbia blue, navy blue, and white. Though in operation since the previous August, the school was not officially dedicated until March 23, 1963.

Stall was named for its benefactor, the **late Mr. Robert Barnwell Stall, Sr.**, a member of the school board for over 50 years; he had lived in the Midland Park Community since 1922. Mr. Stall was instrumental in getting a voting precinct, roads, telephones, and electricity to Midland Park.

At Stall High School itself, a grade was added each year, culminating with the first graduation taking place, in the school gym, on Thursday, June 3, 1965. The Graduates of 1967 were the first to spend grades 8-12 at Stall. Enrollment reached 1000 for the first time in 1968-1969. Trailer classrooms were added for the first time for the 1969-1970 school year.

Stall's student body continued to grow, reaching its peak at over 1700 students for the 1974-1975 school year, the last to include the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, which became part of the middle school system. There were 18 classes contained in trailers that year. By the late 1970's Stall's program offerings expanded to include classes and personnel to educate students with special needs.

On August 29, 1982, twenty years after the school began, Stall finally got its wish with the dedication of its own stadium; 26 years later, on August 29, 2008, the stadium was officially named **Lynda Davis Field**, in honor of Dr. Lynda F. Davis- Stall teacher, principal, and Districts 1 and 2 superintendent- who was and continues to be a staunch Stall advocate.

A new two-story wing between Stall and Alice Birney was added to the existing campus in 1985-1986, nearly doubling classroom and office space. This improvement reduced the number of, but did not eliminate, trailer classes. A spacious media center near the front entrance was added, replacing the library at the end of the second floor in the original campus. The new facade for the school, which also included an enclosed front breezeway, faced Ashley Heights. At the same time, the entire school was air-conditioned, the corridor beyond the gymnasium was enclosed, and seven classrooms and a hallway were created in that wing.

1992 saw the introduction of an extensive ROTC program, providing excellent opportunities for young men and women to receive training in personal discipline and commitment to purpose in anticipation of possible careers in America's military.

By the end of the twentieth century, it became quite evident that further changes were necessary for Stall High School. The 2005-2006 school year saw the completion of even more renovations: expansion of the breezeway, which allowed entrance to the main office and media center by way of that breezeway; also there were cosmetic and physical improvements to classrooms, especially in the original wing; and, of course, the business and technology areas were greatly enhanced and enlarged.

Yet, it was determined, within the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, that what was truly needed and what would be financially feasible was the construction of a totally new Stall High School, to be built on another site. Property was secured off Ashley Phosphate Road, and the groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 23, 2008.

In August 2010 a new state-of-the-art facility at 3625 Ashley Phosphate Road became R. B. Stall High School. (The old campus became Northwoods Middle School, formerly Alice Birney Middle School. and the address changed to 7763 Northside Drive.)

At nearly one-quarter million square feet, the current campus is inviting, modern, spacious, and it is equipped with the latest in technology, including video surveillance, to serve and educate the student population in a secure environment. Substantially larger than the previous facility, this two-story complex consists of a primary building core with three academic wings.

Improvements in this new campus are indeed impressive: 71 teaching stations, 58 classrooms/labs, 19 offices, computers in every classroom, 34 computer stations in the Media Center, a laptop computer for each teacher, iPads for every student providing them one-to-one instruction. 22 computer labs, a College and Career Center, 2 gyms, a state-of-the-art fitness center, several athletic fields, and certainly Stall's very own Performing Arts Center, capable of accommodating over 400 people.

Since Stall moved to this campus in 2010, a number of program and extracurricular additions continue to enhance the school's stature. They include: 61 clubs and organizations; musical training in Steel Drums and African Drums; action-based learning in the "Brain Room"; advanced placement course work in art; an acknowledgment of Charleston's importance by offering "History of the Low Country"; and the especially significant and promising Aerospace Engineering and Aerospace Manufacturing courses, in partnership with Boeing Incorporated.

In its first 50 years Stall has had 10 principals:

- the late Mr. George W. Fricks (1962-1975)
- the late Col. James G. Davidson, Jr. (1975)
- the late Mr. Quentin Scott (1975-1979)
- Dr. Lynda F. Davis (1979-1987)
- Dr. Clarence Richardson (interim 1984-1985)
- Mr. Michael Turner (1987-1995)
- Mr. James Hampton (1995-2003)
- Dr. David Basile (2003-2006)
- Mr. Dan Conner (2006-2010)
- Mr. Kim Wilson (2010-present)

Yet, it is the students-past, present, future- that truly make the school. Stall has a rich heritage of student accomplishments.

In athletics, there were conference championships in basketball , football, baseball, softball, volleyball, and wrestling; Lower State championship in volleyball; state championships in track, baseball, and softball. The varsity football team played for the

state championship in 1991. The varsity cheerleaders were invited to the Nationals three times; The Warrior Band was state champions twice.

The Bicentennial Team won the state competition on the US Constitution 11 times, a record never equaled.

As a result of exceptional performance in a number of areas, both academic and extracurricular, Stall was Charleston County School of the Year 3 times.

So, exactly what have Stall's alumni accomplished?

At least 10 graduated from the United States military academies; over 60 have earned doctoral degrees; countless numbers have served the public as educators, members of the clergy, lawyers, judges, mayors, police personnel, military officers, and politicians at the local, state, and national levels; still others achieved success as professional athletes, bankers, business owners, even corporate-level executives.

R. B. Stall High School is indeed proud of the past accomplishments of its student body and alumni. It is hoped that these achievements will serve as beacons to inspire Stall's current and future young men and young women not only to become successful and productive citizens but to make a positive difference in society as well.

Presented by  
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