

EDUCATION AT FORT KNOX



When Camp Knox was established in 1918, children of service members attended existing one- or two-room schools around Stithton, but by Fall 1919, a new state-funded public school opened on post serving 140 children of civilians and military personnel. Though tuition was free, donations supplemented the state's insufficient funds.

In 1932, Brig. Gen. Julian R. Lindsey (1932-34) established the Fort Knox Dependent Schools and appointed three board members. With supplemental funding from donations, tuition, and turkey shoots, tarpaper shacks were constructed between First and Second Ave., where 72 students quickly enrolled. By 1935, a two-year high school curriculum was added. In 1936, the first graduating class consisted of four young men. The return of troops from WW II (1941-45) and the early Cold War (1947-92) inspired the creation of a large unified Department of Defense (DoD). In modernizing the military, President Harry S. Truman desegregated the DoD in 1948.



In spring 1939, the Army began building a much larger, two-and-a-half-story, T-plan school in the Georgian Revival style, while adapting other buildings to house classes. On July 15, 1941, Ft. Knox High School was dedicated. That year the first Dependent Schools superintendent was hired. In 1957, after the high school moved, it was renamed Briscoe Elementary in honor of Col. N. Butler Briscoe, a garrison commander during WWII.

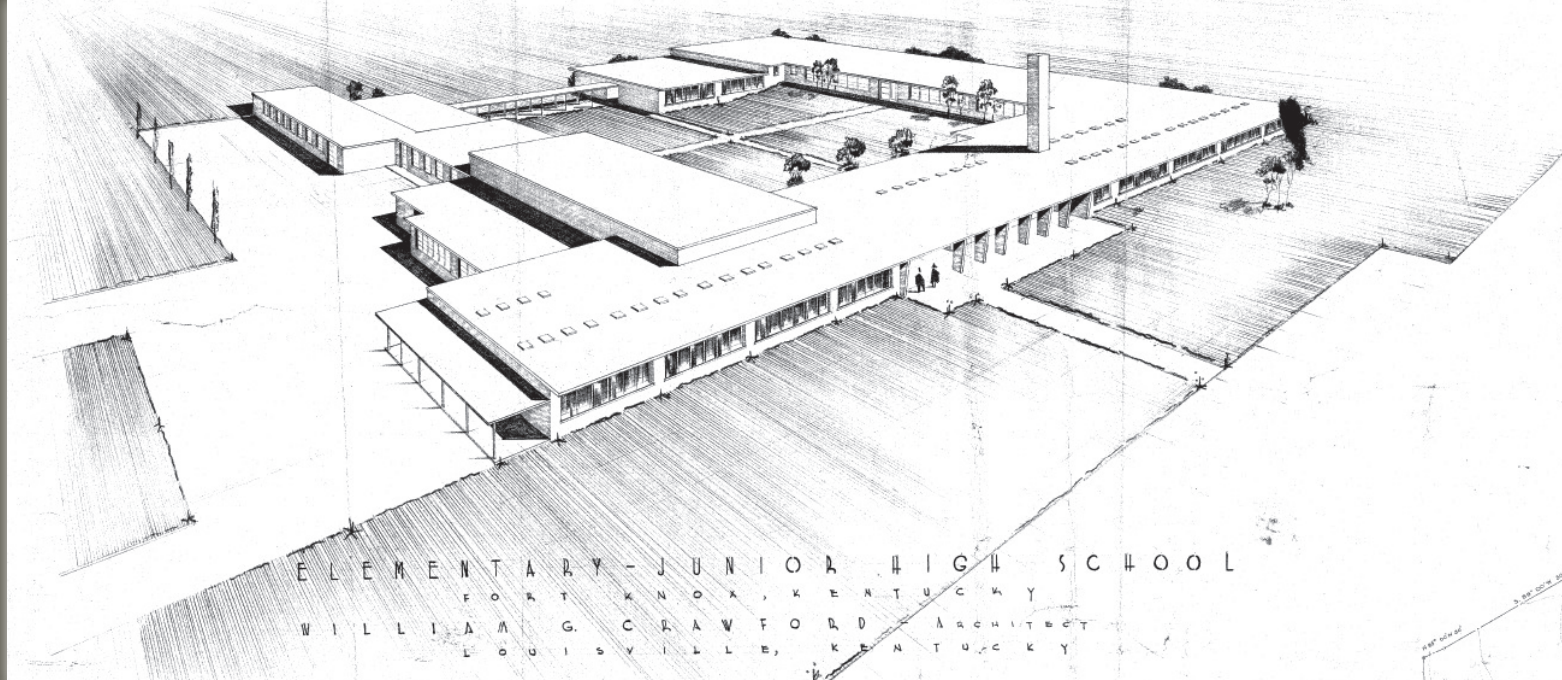


On August 16, 1952, Crittenberger Elementary School (630 students grades PK-3) was dedicated in honor of a former Ft. Knox student killed in action in Germany. It was designed by Otis & Grimes of Louisville. In 1953, Stevens Elementary (495 students grades PK-4) was dedicated in honor of Marine PFC Leonard Ray Stevens, a former Ft. Knox student killed in action in Korea. It was the first Modernist school designed on post.

By March 1952, President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the integration of all federally funded schools, yet Ft. Knox had already integrated its elementary schools as early as 1948, nearly two decades before many counties would comply with the 1954 landmark Supreme Court case, Brown v. Board of Education, which ruled the unconstitutionality of segregated school. Also in stark contrast to the area and nation, in 1949, Ft. Knox estimated that 85% of its students would pursue education after high school when only 7% of the nation did so. Ft. Knox also provided Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, which was only funded in 19 states by 1975 and not mandated nationwide until 2011.



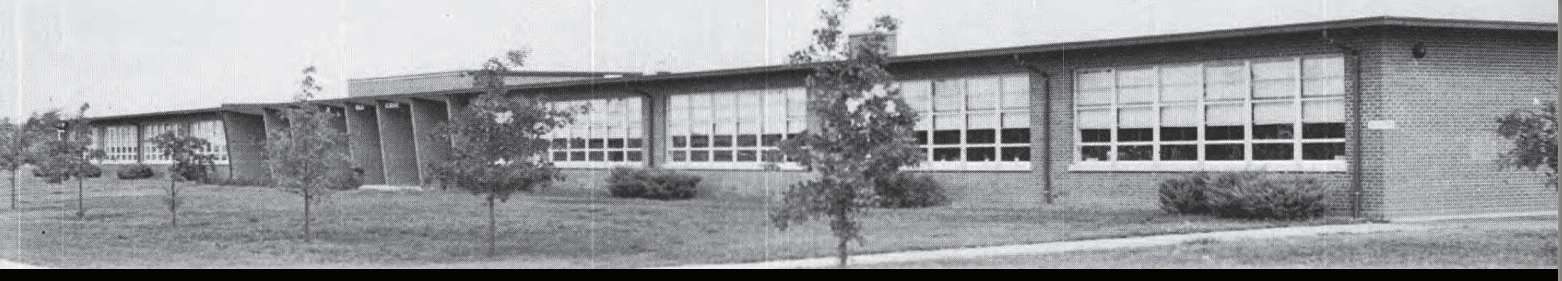
In 1956, Kingsolver Elementary School (462 students grades PK-3) was dedicated in honor of William E. Kingsolver, the first superintendent of Ft. Knox schools (1941-54), who died after falling in a well while hunting. In 1956 and 1961, Pierce Elementary (800 students grades 4-7) and Mudge Elementary were constructed using the same architectural plans.



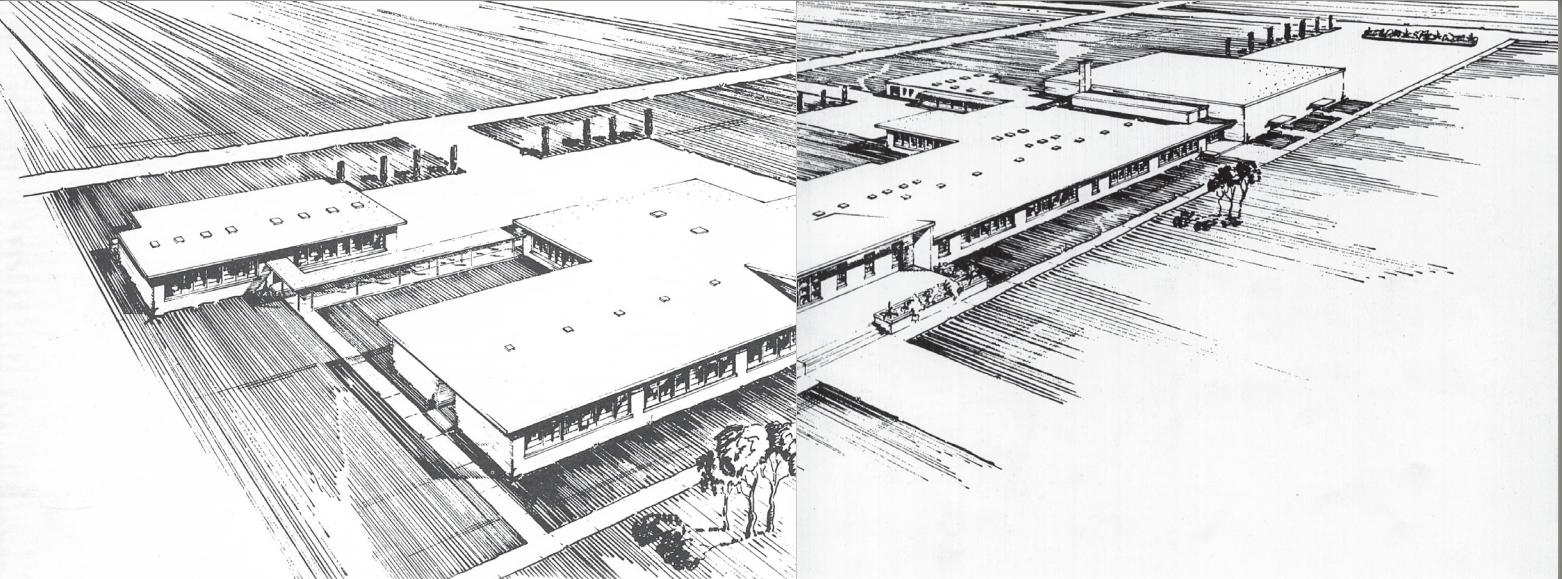
On November 27, 1957, Grades 8-12 moved into a new building, named in honor of Maj. Gen. Charles Lewis Scott. In 1960, it became Scott Junior High when grade 7 moved from Pierce and a new high school opened.

At Ft. Knox, between Fall 1934 and '49, enrollment increased from 85 to 1,200 students. That year, at a Congressional hearing in Louisville, local, state, and federal officials discussed overcrowding in post schools, poor funding in nearby counties, and the tax burden of federal lands on counties. Each Ft. Knox student received \$140, including \$120 from the U.S. and \$20 from donations, whereas each student in nearby Hardin County only received \$80 per year. This disparity continued for decades. Following these hearings, in 1950, Congress created the DoD Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) to consolidate funding and operations of schools on installations in the U.S. Thereafter, Ft. Knox continued to adapt old buildings to alleviate overcrowded classrooms, while planning for additional schools with new federal funding. It also charged a new income-based tuition that ranged from \$2 to \$5 per month. During the 1950-51 school year, 1,056 students enrolled, followed by 1,250 students the next year.

Kentucky native William Graves Crawford designed most of the mid-century schools following national trends with hints of the Neo-formalist style. All were sleek, one-story buildings constructed of steel, concrete, and brick with ribbon windows, flat roofs, and courtyards. They all remained in use for 50 years or more, shifting grades and names in that time.



In 1958, Van Voorhis Elementary School (800 students grades 4-7) opened on 35 acres and was named in honor of Lt. Gen. Daniel Van Voorhis. In 1959, Goldville School was established for differently abled children and Walker Junior High opened.



In 1960, a new Ft. Knox High School (500+ students grades 9-12) was constructed with 12 classrooms, a science wing, auditorium-gymnasium, and band, home economics, and industrial arts rooms. The student population was nearly 4,400 and was expected to hit the 7,000 by 1964. In 1967 Macdonald Junior High (400 students grades 8-9) was the last school dedicated for many decades.



1966-67 EAGLES YEARBOOK



1969-70 EAGLES YEARBOOK



FORT KNOX EST. 1918
HERITAGE TRAIL

