

FACTS & TIDBITS

*David A. Sayre was born on March 12, 1793 near Madison, New Jersey and was the youngest of eleven children. His father was a Revolutionary War veteran. Like many children in his day, Sayre had little formal education, and as a consequence, few personal effects have been deciphered.

*David Sayre was apprenticed as a youth to Ezra Woodruff, a silver plater, whose brother, Ichabod Woodruff, moved west to Lexington in 1811 to establish a business. Sayre followed Woodruff to Lexington walking over the mountains to Pittsburgh and then traveling down the Ohio River by keelboat to Maysville. He later commented that he walked barefoot to Lexington from Maysville arriving in the frontier city with only \$ 1.75 in his pocket.

*Ichabod Woodruff's silver shop was located on West Main Street near the Jefferson Street viaduct. (The shop had direct access to the Town Branch creek which supplied it with water.)

* By 1817, David Sayre had accumulated enough money to purchase Ichabod Woodruff's shop and enter business for himself. At this time, he only silver-plated objects as opposed to making them.

*David A. Sayre married Abby Van Holt Hammond of Norfolk, Virginia in 1823. Abby Hammond had come to Lexington to teach piano and in 1825, preformed at a reception in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette on the Sayre grounds. The couple was childless during their 47-year marriage.

*In 1829, David A. Sayre purchased the assets of the Commonwealth Bank of Kentucky and concentrated entirely on the banking business. He prospered by Andrew Jackson's "bank war" in 1832, and his bank became one of Jackson's "pet banks" in which government funds were deposited.

*Sayre was a member of the Democratic Party and did not support the Whig Party founded by Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John C. Calhoun. There is little correspondence between Clay, the most prominent lawyer in Kentucky, and Sayre, the Commonwealth's most influential banker.

*Sayre School was organized on November 1, 1854 at David A. Sayre's bank located on the corner of Mill and Short Streets. The school was first named, *The Transylvania Female Institute*, but the name was changed three weeks later because of the confusion with Transylvania University. To house the new school, Sayre purchased the building that had formerly been occupied by the Second Bank of the United States located on the corner of Mill and Church Streets.

*David A. Sayre purchased the current school property on September 27, 1855 from Edward P. Johnson for \$15,900. At the time of purchase, the property consisted of about 5 acres and contained four individual segments, all of which were combined to create the school grounds. In addition, "...all furniture, apparatus, books, papers, maps, pictures, plates, and other representatives...." belonging to the house passed to the school.

*The Class of 1856 was the first class to be graduated and contained 9 members. The academic year was divided into two terms each consisting of twenty-one weeks. The school was divided into three departments – Primary, Academic, and Collegiate. The principal was required to be a member of the Presbyterian Church and was elected by the Board of Trustees on a yearly basis. By 1856, the school had a total enrollment of 133 students and had a national reputation.

*Sayre School alumni of distinction includes Ms. Laura Clay, a 1865 graduate (daughter of American ambassador to Russia, Cassius M. Clay), and a leading suffragette into the 20th Century.

*Sayre School has had 7 women who served in the leadership role as the Head Mistress of the school.

*The playground on Constitution Street was originally the site of three houses. Two of the houses were saved from demolition and moved to nearby sites in 1984, when the playground was developed.

***The articles of incorporation for the school were written by John C. Breckinridge, a prominent Lexington attorney, who within a year of drafting the document was elected as the youngest Vice-President of the United States. He served during the James C. Buchanan administration (1857-1861). In the election of 1860, Mr. Breckinridge was nominated as the southern Democratic presidential candidate against Abraham Lincoln. He lost in the national election, but carried Kentucky.**

***At one time, the back parking lot between the Lower School and Martin Luther King Boulevard was used as a “rope walk” where strands of hemp were twisted together to make rope. Before it became a parking lot in 1949, it was used as a playground for tennis and softball.**

***When the school opened in 1854, tuition was \$20 per semester with room and board costing an additional \$60 per semester. The course of studies for the Sayre Female Institute following the Civil War included the following subjects; geometry, algebra, geography, English, modern history, Latin, astronomy, rhetoric, physical science, ancient history, and philosophy. Special subjects, such as instrumental music, French, and drawing, were extra and cost between \$10 and \$25 per semester.**

***Boys were first admitted to the Primary Department of the school in 1876. They could only attend the school up to the 8th grade. Sayre also created its first Kindergarten in 1876, one of the first in the Commonwealth.**

***David A. Sayre built the first library on the Centre College campus in 1862, and was one of the original organizers of the Lexington Cemetery and Eastern State Hospital.**

***Prior to his death on September 11, 1870, David A. Sayre estimated in an interview that he had given away over \$700,000 to various charitable causes.**

***At the outbreak of the Civil War, David A. Sayre helped organize companies of Lexington citizens who were loyal to the Union and who vowed to defend the city from a take over by Southern sympathizers. In 1861, Sayre bought rifles from Louisville and Cincinnati (termed “Lincoln guns”) to arm volunteers to protect the city.**

***On March 2, 1896 a crowd of 200 Lexingtonians observed a demonstration of a new invention, the X-ray machine, at Sayre. Mrs. Liccle Corbin, a teacher in the Midway Orphan School made her purse a subject of the experiment. Two months earlier, in January, two professors from the University of Kentucky physics department borrowed a spark coil from the science department of Sayre to demonstrate the X-ray image discovered by Wilhelm C. Rontgen.**

***In 1964, the student body debated on whether to be known as *the Sayre Athenians*, or *the Sayre Spartans*. They selected the latter in a vote because of the fighting reputation of the Spartans.**

***Sayre School created the first computer class in the state in 1966 by integrating that subject into the mathematics curriculum. Students wrote their own computer programs on punch cards which were taken to the University of Kentucky for processing overnight.**

***The highest PSAT score for any student at Sayre was earned by Matthew Belgeri '89. In his junior year, Matthew was in the top fifty students nationwide who took the test in 1988.**

The first “extended” class trip was taken in 1973, by the junior American history class trip to Williamsburg, Virginia. The group traveled on a school bus driven by teacher, Tom Grunwald.

***In 1975, twelve Sayre students took a six-week, 350-mile canoe trip down the Churchill River in northern Manitoba to Hudson Bay. Along the way, they paddled through pods of whales and had Polar bears and wolves visit their camps. Two other Sayre groups (1979 & 1982) took three week canoe trips down the Moose River to Moose Factory, Ontario located at the bottom of James Bay.**

*Faculty and staff members who attended Sayre as students are Leslie Isaacs '69, Eve Greathouse '72, Jill Paris '77, Sarah Rushing '80, Marti Quintero '88, Beth Pitman '96, Jason Nahra '96, Charlie Dalton '98 and Courtland Leer '04. During their high school years, Ms. Isaacs and Ms. Greathouse were cheerleaders. Mr. Dalton, and Ms. Rushing played soccer. Ms. Pitman and Mr. Nahra were varsity basketball players. Ms. Quintero was the editor of *The Pillars* and played softball.

*Throughout the 1980's, the Sayre School Debate Team was considered as one of the best in the state and region. During the same era, the yearbook, *The Pillars*, was nationally recognized several times for excellence in the Columbia University Journalism Contest.

*The school had a football program from 1965 until 1977. In the early 1960s, football was mandatory for all male students from the 4th grade to the 12th grade.

*The Upper School Honor Code was adopted after a secret ballot by the student body in 1987.

*Sayre had no Upper School from 1947 until 1962. The first graduating class of the "New Era" of the school was in 1965 and had 17 members.

*A beloved teacher who worked as one of the longest at Sayre was Namoi Cheek. Mrs. Cheek taught piano to generations of Sayre student and worked at Sayre from 1926 until 1972 – forty six years.

*Will Duncan, fondly known as "Old Will," a Sayre employee from 1925 until 1970, always claimed that the school had an underground tunnel located under the front circle that was used as a stopping place on the Underground Railroad. To date, no tunnel has been found.

*The athletic team with the longest tradition at Sayre is the women's varsity basketball team. As an organized team, it was a part of the school at least as early as 1908. A picture of the team in their uniforms is in the trophy case in the gym.

*The first Sayre team to win a state championship was the boy's weightlifting team in 1966. The second team to win a state championship was the girl's tennis team in 1985 coached by Tom Isaacs.

*The first Sayre weightlifting area was located on a platform on the west side of the gymnasium and used "home made" bar bells. In the summer of 1966, a number of boys dug out a part of the basement beneath Old Sayre and located the weightlifting room under the main building. Those participating in the excavation included Phil Johnson '67, John Tipton '67, and Charlie Beasley '68.

*The first student to win an individual State Championship was Barry Hall '67 who set a state record in the Two Mile Run in 1966. Barry also earned two varsity letters in basketball.

*The Sayre student who won the most individual athletic honors while at school is Dr. Mary Lloyd Ireland, M.D. '70. Dr. Ireland set eight state records in swimming – two per year in different races and strokes. She also lettered in field hockey, track, and basketball.

*The school colors, blue and gold, extend back to the World War I era. The oldest yearbook in the school's procession is entitled, "*The Blue and Gold*," and was published in 1919.

*The two largest graduating classes from the school were the Class of 2006 and the Class of 2011, both with 65 members. The second largest was the Class of 1974 with 62 members.

*The first African-American graduate of Sayre was Ulyssine Brown Crowder in 1985. The first African-American valedictorian was Andrea Nicole Thomas '91 who went on to graduate from Harvard with a degree in mechanical engineering.

***The tallest student/athlete to play basketball for Sayre was Don Witherspoon '79, who was 6' 9". He earned an athletic scholarship to Clemson University playing at that school for four years.**

***From 1965 to 1977, all students had to take "sports," or P.E. Most male teachers were expected to work in the Sports Program after regular school hours from 3:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.**

***The only undefeated football and basketball teams in the school's history was the eighth grade team of 1967, coached by Tom Grunwald. The team included as players Carson Asbury, Jay Hollingsworth, Tom Cowgill, Berkeley Hollingsworth, Billy Swinford, and Ben Willis.**

***The first varsity football coach was Dan Hill (1964-1966). The last football coach was Gerald "Babe" Walton (1966-1977). The first basketball coaches in the modern era (1962- 1965) were Norris "Chigger" Flynn and John Kelly. The first varsity soccer coach was Mike Lamb. The first varsity soccer team was created in 1978.**

***From 1965 until 1991, the required dress code for boys (K through 12) was a gray blazer and tie. Neither girl students, nor female teachers were allowed to wear slacks to the school until 1977.**

***In 2012, five Sayre teachers had earned their Ph.D. They are Dawn Klus (botany), Linda Froehlich (French), Nance Everts (Spanish), Marti Quintero (education), and Delia Pergande (history).**

***The first "grand slam" (a home run hit when all bases are loaded) was hit at Chase Comley Field by Nick Klus '10 during a game with Garrett County on April 7, 2008. The game ended in an 8 to 8 tie.**

***In 2009, Adam Suhl became the first Sayre student to qualify for the USA Math Olympiad. Only 514 students from Canada and the U. S. qualified to take the exam.**

*** Ann Eason and Maddox Patterson were first and second in the 3200 Meter Run at the State Track meet in 2011. The 4 X 800 Relay Team of Philippine Courtier, Bea Cameron, Maddox Patterson, and Ann Eason also took first place.**

Notable Sayre Alumni of the Modern Era

***Mrs. Loretta Gilliam Clark – Class of 1936; The youngest graduate of the Upper School, at barely 16, she entered Centre College. In later years, she married Dr. Thomas D. Clark, Historian Emeritus of the state.**

***Dr. William Lipscomb, Ph.D. - Class of 1938; Harvard professor and the winner of the 1976 Nobel Prize for chemistry. In 1986, Dr. Lipscomb gave the commencement address to the graduating seniors.**

***Dr. Charles M. Beasley, M.D. – Class of 1968; National weightlifting champion; Sayre Athletic Hall of Fame; Dr. Beasley is a research scientist employed by the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company.**

***Dr. Lloyd Ireland, M.D. - Class of 1970; Olympic Swimmer; founder of Kentucky Sports Medicine; Sayre Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. Ireland was the Alumni Breakfast speaker to the Class of 2006.**

***Mrs. Ann Bakhaus McBrayer - Class of 1974; Highly successful Lexington business and horse woman. Ms. McBrayer was the Alumni Breakfast speaker to the Class of 2008 and mother of three Sayre graduates.**

***Ms. Marlene McCarty – Class of 1975; Internationally recognized New York artist and graphic designer.**

***Dr. Kathryn Kelly Woods Shirley, M.D. – Class of 1994; Earned more individual academic honors as a Sayre student than any other graduate. She is now a pediatrician living in Columbus, Ohio.**

***Ms. Hallison Putnam – Class of 1998; The only individual to be a two time winner of the Tommy Bell Award for athletics.**

SAYRE HISTORY TIMELINE

- 1793, March 12 – David A. Sayre born near Madison, New Jersey; son of Ephraim and Mary Meeker Sayre; he was apprenticed to Ezra Woodruff of Elizabeth, NJ.
- 1811 – David A. Sayre arrived in Lexington and began work as a silver apprentice.
- 1817 – Purchased the silver shop of Ichabod Woodruff on West Main Street in Lexington.
- 1823 – Sayre connected a broker's office with the silver plating business establishing the firm of David A. Sayre and Company. (Northeast corner of Short and Mill Streets)
- 1823 – D.A. Sayre married Miss Abby Van Holt Hammond of Norfolk, Virginia
- 1829 – Sayre purchased the credits and accounts of the Commonwealth Bank of Kentucky and entered banking as a full time profession.
- 1854, November 1 – David A. Sayre purchased a large lot and two-story brick building from George W. Sutton at the northwest corner of Mill and Church Streets. (The former Second Bank of The United States) The school was first named, The Transylvania Female Institute. The Rev. Henry V.D. Nevius was appointed as the first Headmaster.
- 1854, November 17 – The first Board of Trustees met in the office of George B. Kinkead. The articles of incorporation for the school were written by John C. Breckinridge, a prominent Lexington attorney who within a year of drafting the document was elected as the youngest Vice-President of the United States serving in the James C. Buchanan administration (1857-1861). In the 1860 election, Mr. Breckinridge was nominated by the Democratic Party to run against Abraham Lincoln.
- 1854, November 21 – *The Kentucky Statesman* announced the school's opening and terms.
- 1854, December – The Trustees resolved that the name of the school be changed to read, The Sayre Female Institute so that it would not be confused with the already established Transylvania College.
- 1855, September 27 – David Sayre purchased about five acres of property from Edward P. Johnson (out lot #11, "Johnson's Grove") and an ante-bellum brick mansion, three stories high with a cupola. The cost of the property and contents was \$15,900.
- 1855, October 1 – The Sayre Female Institute was moved to the former Johnson estate.
- 1856, June 30 – The first school term ended with nine women graduates.
- 1860, July 27 – A deed was recorded by David A. and Abby Sayre that conveyed all the property of the Sayre Female Institute to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.
- 1865 – Sayre had 195 students enrolled and graduated a class of six. Included in the graduating class was Miss Laura Clay, daughter of Cassius M. Clay, the founder of *The True American*, and the American ambassador to Russia from 1862 to 1869.
- 1870, June 14 – Henry Brainard McClellan was appointed Headmaster.
- 1870, September 11 – David A. Sayre died and was buried at the Lexington Cemetery.
- 1876 – Boys were admitted to the Primary Department (135 girls in the Collegiate and Academic Departments, and 59 boys and girls in the Primary Department.). Sayre also began its kindergarten.
- 1896 – Merry Lewis Pence at the Kentucky Agricultural and Mechanical College borrowed a "spark coil" from Sayre physics department to replicate Wilhelm Rontgen's feat of the X-ray. The experiment was noted in the Lexington paper on March 3, 1896.
- 1904 – Henry B. McClellan resigned from Sayre. Major McClellan died on October 1, 1904, in Lexington, and was buried at the Lexington Cemetery.
- 1908 – The school's name changed from the Sayre Female Institute to Sayre College. A three-story building was added to south side of Old Sayre and used as a dormitory. It was demolished in 1979.
- 1914 – Miss Ella M. Williams Preparatory School was consolidated with Sayre School.
- 1919 – 1920 – Mrs. Maude S. Barnett became the first Headmistress of the school followed by Miss Margaret H. Hopper, Miss Alice B. Caldwell (1923-1924), and Mrs. Percy K. Holmes (1924-1925)
- 1922 – The Sayre Junior College was discontinued. The formal name of the school was changed to Sayre School for Girls.
- 1926 – Rev. John C. Hanley became the Headmaster of the School.
- 1942 – Dr. Kenneth E. St. Clair became the Headmaster of the School. The name was changed to Sayre School.
- 1944 – Sayre School and the Hamilton Grammar School were consolidated.
- 1947 – Mrs. J. Farra Van Meter, wife of the President of the Sayre Board of Trustees, became the unpaid Headmistress of the school. The Upper School (and the boarding of students), was

discontinued due to low enrollment. The school leased its dormitory facilities to the University of Kentucky and rented rooms to teachers.

1948, October – A ruling was handed down by the Kentucky Court of Appeals allowing the Sayre Board of Trustees to sign a ten-year lease allowing the parking of vehicles on the corner lot of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Pleasant Stone Street.

1952 – Mrs. Robert W. Miles was appointed as the Headmistress of the school.

THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW ERA

1961 - Donn D. Hollingsworth was appointed as the Headmaster of the school. The “New Era” campaign of recreating a non-denomination, co-educational, college preparatory school was begun.

1962 – The C.V. Whitney Gymnasium was completed.

1963 – The Headley de Waal Building was completed and used as the new Upper School facility. It was also the location of the “Buttery” which served lunch to the entire school population.

1965 – The first high school class to graduate from the Upper School since 1947 (composed of 17 members) held the commencement ceremonies in the C.V. Whitney Gymnasium in May 1965. The baccalaureate service was held at the Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church on the Iron Works Pike.

1966 – The Sayre Upper School became the first school in the Commonwealth to add computer instruction to its mathematics classes as part of the regular curriculum.

1972 – The Marie Louise Whitney Lower School building was completed.

1974 – The Edward F. Simms Library was constructed on the site of the “old north wing.”

1976 – William Trent Williams was appointed as the 19th Headmaster of the school.

1980 – The Johnson-McCoy Building was constructed on the site of what had earlier been the school’s dormitory wing. The building was originally built to house the Middle School, but in 1987, it became the Extended Day Center.

1985 – The Board of Trustees purchased the former Greyhound Station Bus property one block north of the main campus between Limestone Street and Martin Luther King Blvd. The Field Oldham Playground was dedicated.

1986 – A major renovation of Old Sayre was completed and the building reoccupied.

1987 – The Sayre Middle School was moved to the former Greyhound bus station following an extensive renovation of the property. The Upper School adopted the Sayre Honor Code following a secret ballot vote of the Upper School student body. Dan Graves was the Student Body President.

1990 – Clayton G. Chambliss was appointed as the 20th Headmaster of the school.

1996 – The Edward F. Simms Library was renovated and a technology center was added. In 2009, the library had a collection of nearly 25,000 books under the direction of Judy Offutt.

2000 – The renovation and expansion of the C.V. Whitney Gymnasium was completed. The trophy case in the foyer was constructed from wood salvaged from a 300 year old Burr Oak tree that once stood at the corner of the gym. Instrumental in saving the wood for the project was Jay Hollingsworth '72 and the Alumni Council.

2001 – The construction of the “new” Buttery was completed. The Front Circle and the front brick walk were renovated and restored.

2002 – The renovation of the Headley-de Waal Building was completed. Formerly used as the Upper School, the building became the new home of the Sayre Middle School.

2003 – The construction of the new Upper School building was completed and the building was occupied by the student body in February 2003.

2005 – Sayre purchased 50 acres of land near Athens, Kentucky for use as athletic fields.

DAVID A. SAYRE AND HIS SCHOOL

David Austin Sayre was a man of humble origin, who received most of his education by hard work and experience rather than by formal schooling. He was born on March 12, 1793, near Madison, New Jersey and apprenticed as a youth to a silversmith. In 1811, Sayre left his home traveling west to Lexington in pursuit of his trade. Within a short time, he became his own master and eventually expanded into banking accumulating a large fortune. During the course of his life, and with the counsel of his wife, Abby, he donated a large portion of his wealth to the Presbyterian Church and to numerous other local charities. In an interview given just prior to his death, Sayre estimated that he had given over \$700,000 to various projects. In 1854, being convinced of the need for female education, he founded a school for girls purchasing the building of the former Second Bank of the United States located on the corner of Mill and Church Streets. The school proved to be highly successful and within a year outgrew its original location. As a result, Mr. Sayre purchased a five-acre tract on Limestone Street (known as Johnson's Grove) and the school's location was moved to its present location in October 1855.

Since 1855, the school has continued to grow and expand its curriculum despite periods of crisis – most notably during the American Civil War and the late 1940s. In 1876, boys were admitted to the Primary Department and the school established one of the first kindergarten programs in the state. For a short time, the school became a junior college granting a two-year degree (1908 –1922) along with a regular high school diploma. The college was discontinued in 1922. Due to the Great Depression and a declining enrollment after World War II, the high school (with its boarding facilities) was closed in 1947. Thus, from 1947 until 1961, Sayre did not have an Upper School. Children who attended Sayre up to the 8th grade, upon “graduation,” often entered University High, or the model lab school associated with the Department of Education at the University of Kentucky.

In 1961, the Board of Trustees believing in Lexington's need for a co-educational, college preparatory school began a campaign to renovate and expand the campus. The leaders of this expansion were Board of Trustee's Chairman, Mr. Jim Shropshire and Board member, Mr. M. L.L. Short. Mr. Short, for whom the Short Awards are named, was a relative of David A. Sayre. By 1963, the C.V. Whitney Gymnasium and the Headley-deWaal buildings had been constructed and in 1965, the first high school class of the “New Era” was graduated. Further additions to the expanding campus were made that included the Marie Louise Whitney Lower School Building (1972), The Edward F. Simms Library (1973), the Johnson-McCoy Building (1980), the Violet Milton Price Combs Garden (1980), the Field Oldham Playground (1984, and renovated in 1998), the Edith A. Whitaker Fine Arts Center (1987), a new Buttery (1999) and the Upper School (2003). A new technology center (1996) now occupies a part of the library, and a wireless laptop Upper School opened in February 2003. In 2005, the school successfully purchased fifty acres near Athens, Kentucky for use as an athletic complex. With the addition of a central Pavilion, the Athletic center officially opened in the spring of 2009.

THE HISTORIC CAMPUS

Old Sayre – The Johnson Estate (circa 1820)

The building was originally a two story, private residence that was altered with the addition of the upper floors and the cupola in the 1850s. It was purchased by David A. Sayre from Edward P. Johnson in 1855 when the school outgrew its original location. The front entrance, including the engraved glass windows framing the main door and stone steps, are original to the building. The building is the administrative center of the campus. The twin parlors retain furniture from the era when Sayre was a boarding school for young women. The large desk in the front parlor belonged to former Headmaster, Major Henry B. McClellan (1870-1904). The new back section of the building was added in the 1986 renovation.

The C.V. Whitney Gymnasium – 1962

This athletic complex is the center of Sayre's PE and sports programs. The gym complex was completely renovated in 1999, and includes the Beasley-Bushong Fitness Center. The latter area was made possible by a generous gift from Sayre alumni Drs. Charles M. Beasley, M.D. '68 and his wife, Rebecca Bushong, M.D. The trophy case in the entrance foyer is constructed from a large burr oak tree cut on the school property during the gym renovation.

The Headley-de Waal Building – 1963

The building now houses the Sayre Middle School. It was originally built to accommodate the Upper School and the Buttery, and was used for those purposes from 1963 until September 2001. The building underwent an extensive two-year renovation to insure that it was handicapped accessible and thoroughly modern. It is equipped for student wireless, laptop computer use, offers superb science laboratories for grades six, seven, and eight, and features a glass enclosed "commons area" for Middle School students.

The Marie Louise Whitney Lower School Building – 1972

This site once held a small brick barn and a grassy lot used as a playground. The location is now the site of the Lower School and serves as a general classroom building for grades pre-kindergarten through the fifth grade. The portrait hanging in the office is of Amos Lawrence, beloved former Director of the Lower School and Assistant Headmaster from 1965 to 1975.

The Edward F. Simms Library – 1974

The library was built on the site of what had been "the old north wing." The modern library contains over 24,000 volumes, houses a technology center, the Karen Ulack Auditorium, and serves the research needs of the entire school community. The facility was renovated in 1996.

The Johnson-McCoy Building – 1980

Constructed in 1980 on the site of what was once the school's dormitory wing, the building was first designed for use as the Middle School. In 1987, it began its current use as the Extended Day Care Center. Both the Lower and Upper Schools use the art rooms located on the second floor.

The Vi Combs Garden – 1984

Vi Combs, a 1970 Sayre graduate and a landscape architecture student at the College of William and Mary, designed the brick courtyard. Ms. Combs tragically died in an automobile accident in 1980 and the design for the garden was found among her effects. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Sayre Combs built the garden, dedicating it to Vi's memory. The limestone benches in the garden were originally steps leading into the old academic North Wing.

The Field Oldham Playground – 1985

This playground, located across Templeman Alley, is for the use of Lower School children. It is dedicated to the memory of Field Oldham, a Sayre Lower School youngster who tragically died in an automobile accident in 1984.

The Buttery – 2001

Mrs. de Waal, who was instrumental in the construction of the Headley-deWaal building in 1963, suggested the term, “the buttery,” as the name for the school’s dinning facility which was located in the building until 2001. The new facility was completed in November 2001 and features a completely modern kitchen with walk-in cooler and freezer, two serving lines, Justin Robins Hall, and the Jasko Room. It is the dining facility for the entire school community and is still called, “the Buttery.”

The Parker House – 1868

This house on Constitution Street currently houses the Middle School art program and the Personal Learning Program. The property was originally purchased in 1984 to provide access to the north campus and has become an integral part of the school campus.

129 & 133 Constitution Street – 1860s

The school purchased this property in 2001 for administrative use during campus renovation and construction.

The Upper School – 2003

This addition to the campus was completed in January 2003. The three-acre property known as “the North Campus” was added to the school in 1986. The site formerly served as the location of the Lexington bus station, and later, the Sayre Middle School. The old building was demolished during the summer of 2001 for the construction of an award winning, wireless Upper School building.

The New Athletic Fields – 2005

The newest addition to the school’s resources is the Athletic Complex located on Canebrake Drive near Athens, Kentucky. The 50 acre complex features ample parking, both a baseball and a softball diamond, four soccer/lacrosse fields, ten tennis courts, and a sports pavilion. Future plans call for the construction of a track and a cross country course.

NOTE: The Sayre campus is “historic ground.” The Marquis de Lafayette, David and Abby Sayre, Cassius Clay, Henry Clay, John C. Breckinridge, Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln and numerous other major Kentucky personalities knew the property and were entertained on the main campus. The main campus is located on approximately five acres of land between Limestone Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard and is listed as Out Lot 11 in the original town survey. The Upper School Campus is about four acres located one block north of the main campus.

SAYRE HISTORY QUIZ

1. What Sayre graduate played at Arizona State University as a walk-on varsity basketball player? _____
 2. Name the current Upper School teacher who was an outstanding butterfly swimmer as a student.

 3. Name the Sayre Upper School teacher who met his wife on a Canadian canoe trip in 1979.

 4. Which Vice President of the United States wrote the articles of incorporation for Sayre?

 5. Which Sayre Headmaster has served the longest as Head of School? _____
 6. What two trees are the oldest on the campus and where are they located? They are often overlooked. _____
 7. What kind of stone are the front steps into Old Sayre made? _____
 8. Name the only Sayre coach to win a state championship – twice? _____
 9. In the original Lexington town plan, the main campus was numbered Out Lot number _____?
 10. Sayre School's first location was where? _____
 11. Name the person who became Chairman of the Board of Trustees after David A. Sayre's death in 1870? _____
 12. Which Sayre family has sent the most children to the school? _____
 13. When was the stone wall along Pleasant Stone Street and Sayre property built? _____
 14. What building, still on the campus, was originally used as the first Sayre gym?

 15. Where on the school grounds do you find the words "Sayre College" inscribed?

 16. What did Abby Sayre teach? _____
 17. Name the teacher, and former Headmaster, who introduced computers into the curriculum? _____
 18. Who was President of the United States when Sayre School was founded? _____
 19. Name the former Sayre parent who was Ambassador to Russia and who was instrumental in negotiating the purchase of Alaska. _____
 20. When was the Upper School Honor Code adopted? _____
- Bonus (2 pts.): Name the only person who has attended every Sayre graduation and Junior-Senior Dance since 1965. _____

