

# Murray School District and Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) Chronology

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Dublin Historical Preservation Association  
November 2019

Note: The following information was drawn from multiple sources, many of which can be found in the Alameda County Library, Dublin Branch. It is a work in progress. Local history, especially Dublin's history, can often have conflicting information and dates, especially regarding the completion of construction and the opening of schools. Since much of this information came from newspapers which often relied on only one or two people's recollections, please understand that some information might not be accurate. This chronology also includes the year some other, non-public, schools opened in Dublin, in order to describe the larger context of Dublin's education history.

Any suggestions to correct or add information would be greatly appreciated and those who have helped make this chronology much more accurate are mentioned in the endnotes. Special thanks to Charles "Chip" Dehnart, Public Information and Community Relations Officer, DUSD. You can send corrections and suggestions to [dhpaorg@gmail.com](mailto:dhpaorg@gmail.com). Please include an explanation and a source or reference with any suggestion or correction.

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1854 – Murray school started as the first school in eastern Alameda County. Charles Crane started teaching in the old Francisco Alviso adobe (Foothill Road, Pleasanton).<sup>i</sup>

1856 – Murray school may have opened on Flanagan Road, near what is now Stoneridge Mall.<sup>ii</sup> The school may have been in local families' houses at this time.

1860 – Murray school moved from Flanagan Road to the Dublin-Hayward Road. This is now known as Dublin Canyon Road.

1866 – Local residents formed the Murray School District.<sup>iii</sup>

1869 – Murray School house opened. It was the first school in Alameda County's Murray Township.<sup>iv</sup>

1870 – Dublin had two hotels, a general store and a wagon shop, a black smithy and a shoemaker shop in addition to a church and school.

1874 – John F. Jordan taught at Murray school.<sup>v</sup>

1880 – Murray school had 87 students. Murray Township had 1,414 students.<sup>vi</sup>

1882 – Murray school teacher Charles Jefferson Thom taught 94 students. Murray Township had 1,340 students.<sup>vii</sup>

1884 – According to the *Livermore Herald*: “The public school is well patronized, and has nearly seventy pupils, with C. J. Thom as teacher. The Trustees are J. C. McDermott, Clerk of the District, Rod. Fallon and Wm. Martin, gentlemen well qualified to protect the school interest.”<sup>viii</sup>

1911 – A small part of eastern Murray School District became the Antone School District. That district built a small one room school house later that year to take care of children living along Tassajara Road and in the area on both sides of the border with Contra Costa County.<sup>ix</sup>

1914 – A library opened in the general store.<sup>x</sup> Dublin had two hotels, two stores, shops, a school, and a church.<sup>xi</sup>

1921 – Murray school housed the local branch of the Alameda County Library.<sup>xii</sup>

1934 - Dublin had a school, a church, two hotels, a grocery store, a blacksmith shop, five gas stations and a library. Dublin Boulevard, then part of the Lincoln Highway (later Highway 50), had businesses on both sides of the street.

1944 – Murray school used as a registration location for war ration book distribution.<sup>xiii</sup>

1952 – Newly constructed Murray school opened on Dublin Blvd. The original schoolhouse was considered inadequate sometime before this.

1961 – In response to the dramatic growth in students due to the Volk-McLain housing development, Murray School District signed construction contracts for three schools to be built on Vomac, Davona and Larkdale drives.<sup>xiv</sup> Temporary portables were set up on Amador Valley Blvd. near Donohue Drive. This location would become known as “Dublin Temporary” or “Village School.”<sup>xv</sup>

1962 – Dublin Elementary School completed.<sup>xvi</sup>

1963 – Brighton Elementary School opened.

1965 – Jeremiah Fallon Elementary School opened.<sup>xvii</sup> Nielsen Elementary School opened.<sup>xviii</sup> The third version of Murray Elementary School completed in April.<sup>xix</sup>

1966 –The Valley Community Services District received the previous school building on Dublin Blvd. for use as a recreation center. Nielsen School opened.<sup>xx</sup> Brighton Elementary School closed.<sup>xxi</sup> C. H. (Christen Hansen) Frederiksen School opened.<sup>xxii</sup>

1967 – Valley Continuation High School established.<sup>xxiii</sup> Dublin High School was established in the fall of 1967 with students attending classes at Amador Valley High School.

1968 - Lydiksen School opened.<sup>xxiv</sup> Bescoe Elementary School opened.<sup>xxv</sup> Dublin High School was established in the fall of 1968 as the second-high school in the Amador Valley Joint Union High School District.<sup>xxvi</sup> Village School (also known as Dublin Temporary) closed and dismantled.<sup>xxvii</sup> Students started attending Dublin High School on Village Parkway, even though building and landscaping were not complete.<sup>xxviii</sup>

1969 – J. R. Cronin Intermediate School opened.<sup>xxix</sup> Dublin High School opened on Village Parkway.

1970 - The Dublin Public Library moved into new and larger quarters on Village Parkway.<sup>xxx</sup>

1971 – Bescoe School became Donlon Elementary School.<sup>xxxi</sup> T. D. (Thomas Dickerson) Wells Intermediate School opened.<sup>xxxii</sup> Valley Christian Church opened an elementary school in a surplus school building. Dublin High School graduated its first senior class in June.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

1973 – St. Phillip Lutheran School opened in Dublin.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

1975 - Concerned citizens started the Dublin Historical Preservation Association (DHPA) to save the original Murray School (located then on Dublin Canyon Road) which was at risk due to highway construction. Caltrans donated the building to DHPA. It was moved to stand next to old St. Raymond's Church near the Dublin Pioneer Cemetery. The area is now the Dublin Heritage Park & Museums. Valley High School operated in a building on Dublin Blvd. near what later became the Dublin Civic Center.<sup>xxxv</sup>

1977 - Frederiksen changes from K-6 to junior high.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

1979 – Dublin Elementary School closed.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

1982 – Dublin became a city. Valley Christian Church opened a high school on its campus.

1983 – Fallon Elementary School closed.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

1985 - Frederiksen changes from junior high to a K-6 school.<sup>xxxix</sup>

1986 - St. Raymond's Catholic Church opened an elementary school at their campus on Shannon Way.

1987 – Valley High School moved to E Building at Dublin High School.<sup>xl</sup>

1988 – Murray School District ended. The elementary and high schools unified into a new district, the Dublin Unified School District. Fallon School converted into district offices.<sup>xli</sup> Lydiksen and Donlon elementary schools became part of the Pleasanton Unified School District. J. R. Cronin School closed. Valley High School operated at the former J. R. Cronin School on York Street.<sup>xlii</sup>

1997 – Dublin Elementary School opened.<sup>xliii</sup>

2000 – James Witt Dougherty Elementary School opened.

2005 – Eleanor Murray Fallon Middle School opened.

2007 – John Green Elementary School opened.

2009 – Nielsen Elementary School closed.<sup>xliv</sup>

2011 – Harold William Kolb Elementary School opened.<sup>xlv</sup>

2015 – Dublin Unified School District had 9,958 students in 11 schools (six elementary, two middle, one comprehensive high school and one alternative high school).<sup>xlvi</sup> Jose Maria Amador Elementary School opened. Dublin High School starts calling its Gael mascot “Grady.”<sup>xlvii</sup>

2018 – DUSD had 12,300 students at the beginning of the year.<sup>xlviii</sup> Cottonwood Creek School opened.

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<sup>i</sup> *Past and Present of Alameda County California*, Joseph E. Baker, editor, Volume 1, Chicago, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1914, p. 475.

<sup>ii</sup> There is some controversy over when the school was built. There is a mention of the school in the July 1861 earthquake damage reports which suggests it was not yet built.

<sup>iii</sup> Murray Elementary School District was established June 5, 1866. Typewritten note found in “Resolutions Murray” binder, Dublin Unified School District (USD) material, Dublin USD offices.

<sup>iv</sup> *Past and Present of Alameda County, California*, Joseph E. Baker, editor, Volume 1, Chicago, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1914, p. 475.

<sup>v</sup> “Teachers’ Institute, Complete Roster of the Teachers of Alameda County,” *Oakland Tribune*, September 22, 1974, p. 3. Accessed through Newspapers.com on May 3, 2015.

<sup>vi</sup> Alameda County was subdivided into several townships for many years. These townships provided some governmental services such as justices of the peace. At this time, Murray Township included most of the county east of the hills between Hayward, Dublin and Sunol. *Livermore Herald*, Vol. 7, No. 25, July 15, 1880, p. 3.

<sup>vii</sup> These consisted of school age children, 5-17 years old. *Livermore Herald*, Vo. 12, No. 1, July 13, 1882, p. 3.

<sup>viii</sup> *Livermore Herald*, Volume 10, Number 5, 18 April 1884, “Valley and Canyon,” p. 4. California Digital Newspaper Archive, (CDNC). Accessed on December 18, 2014.

<sup>ix</sup> “Board of Supervisors,” *Oakland Tribune*, 19 Jan. 1911, p. 11. “Board of Supervisors Regular meeting, Monday, June 5, 1911,” *Oakland Tribune*, 12 June 1911, p. 7. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors consolidated Antone School District into the Pleasanton School District in 1944. “Board of Supervisors, Regular Meeting, January 25, 1944,” *Oakland Tribune*, 3 Feb. 1943, p. 16.

- <sup>x</sup> In May 1914 an Alameda County branch library opened in the Green Store. "Alameda County Library, A Century of Service: A Visual History of the Dublin Library," <http://guides.aclibrary.org/content.php?pid=121671&sid=4887738>, accessed September 28, 2014.
- <sup>xi</sup> *Past and Present of Alameda County California*, p. 475.
- <sup>xii</sup> "Barns, Chicken Houses, Branch Library Homes," *Oakland Tribune*, November 16, 1921, p. 28. Accessed through Newspapers.com, February 19, 2015.
- <sup>xiii</sup> "Here's List of Rationing Places in Eastbay And Contra Costa County by Districts," *Oakland Tribune*, 22 Feb. 1943, p. 6.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Ramona Valencia, *Headlines in Murray School District History, 1960-1970*, p. 4. Aitkin and Collin were the contractors.
- <sup>xv</sup> Ramona Valencia, *Headlines in Murray School District History, 1960-1970*, p. a.
- <sup>xvi</sup> Dublin Elementary School was completed in May 1962 according to hand written notes found in Murray School District files at Dublin Unified School District in July 2015.
- <sup>xvii</sup> Fallon Elementary School was completed in January 1965 according to hand written notes found in Murray School District files at Dublin Unified School District in July 2015.
- <sup>xviii</sup> "Murray School District 1856-1988," *Murray School District History*, pamphlet, circa 1988, no page indicated.
- <sup>xix</sup> This source says Murray School opened in 1965. "Murray School District 1856-1988," *Murray School District History*, circa 1988, no page indicated. Murray Elementary School was completed in April 1971 according to notes found in Murray School District files at Dublin Unified School District in July 2015.
- <sup>xx</sup> Nielsen Elementary School was completed in April 1966 according to notes found in Murray School District files at the Dublin Unified School District in July 2015.
- <sup>xxi</sup> "Murray School District 1856-1988," *Murray School District History*, no page indicated. Brighton Elementary School was also known as the Brighton Portables.
- <sup>xxii</sup> A transcribed newspaper article indicates the school opened on Tuesday, 25 October 1966. Ramona Valencia, *Headlines in Murray School District History, 1960-1970*, Souvenir Edition, 1988, p. 34. An entry in the Bundshah Index indicates the school was dedicated in November 1966. "Murray School District 1856-1988,"
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Valley was established as part of the Amador Valley Union High School District. Its first location was at Amador Valley High School. In 1974 it moved to Dublin Blvd. near what is now Dublin Civic Center. In 1986 it moved to Dublin High School. Jerri Pantages Long, *Echoes of School Bells: A History of Amador-Pleasanton Public Schools*, 1989, p. 101. According to Ron van Noord (via Charles Dehnert, PAO, DUSD 1 August 2019 email) Valley High School opened in 1967 and was in a building near Amador High School from 1967 through 1974.
- <sup>xxiv</sup> Lydiksen Elementary School was completed in April 1968 according to notes found in Murray School District files at the Dublin Unified School District in July 2015. This source says Frederiksen opened in 1966. "Murray School District 1856-1988," *Murray School District History*, no page indicated.
- <sup>xxv</sup> Bescoe Elementary School may have been named after the developer of the local housing subdivision. "John Brooks," obituary, *Tri-Valley Times*, 19 April 2015, p. B10.
- <sup>xxvi</sup> "Dublin High School (Dublin, California)," *Wikipedia*, accessed December 14, 2013. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin\\_High\\_School\\_\(Dublin,\\_California\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin_High_School_(Dublin,_California))
- <sup>xxvii</sup> Ramona Valencia, *Headlines in Murray School District History, 1960-1970*, p. a.
- <sup>xxviii</sup> Freshman and sophomores started as Dublin High students at Amador High School in the fall of 1968. Students physically started attending classes at Dublin High School in the fall of 1969, even though construction was not complete. Dennis Neil Jones, email to author, January 27, 2019.
- <sup>xxix</sup> Ramona Valencia, *Headlines in Murray School District History, 1960-1970*, p. 48. "Principal Gets Post," *Herald/News*, April 20, 1968, no page indicated. Cronin Elementary School was completed in April 1969 according to hand written notes found in Murray School District files at Dublin Unified School District in July 2015.
- <sup>xxx</sup> The library opened on March 1, 1970. "Alameda County Library, A Century of Service: A Visual History of the Dublin Library," <http://guides.aclibrary.org/content.php?pid=121671&sid=4887738>, accessed September 28, 2014.
- <sup>xxxi</sup> Donlon Elementary School was completed in April 1971 according to hand written notes found in Murray School District files at Dublin Unified School District in July 2015.
- <sup>xxxii</sup> "Murray School District 1856-1988," *Murray School District History*, no page indicated. Wells School was completed in September 1971 according to notes found in Murray School District files at Dublin Unified School District in July 2015.

- xxxiii "Dublin High School (Dublin, California)," *Wikipedia*, accessed December 14, 2013. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin\\_High\\_School\\_\(Dublin,\\_California\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin_High_School_(Dublin,_California)).
- xxxiv St. Philip Lutheran School website. <http://stphiliplutheranschool.com/>. Accessed August 9, 2016.
- xxxv According to Ron van Noord (via Charles Dehnert, PAO, DUSD 1 August 2019 email) Valley High School operated at the Dublin Blvd. location from 1975-1987.
- xxxvi Email from Betty Hudak to author, November 13, 2019.
- xxxvii "Murray School District 1856-1988," *Murray School District History*, no page indicated.
- xxxviii "Murray School District 1856-1988," *Murray School District History*, no page indicated.
- xxxix Email from Betty Hudak to author, November 13, 2019.
- xl According to Ron van Noord (via Charles Dehnert, PAO, DUSD 1 August 2019 email) Valley High School operated in E Building at Dublin High School from 1987-1988.
- xli Dublin Unified School District 7-11 Committee Meeting, April 22, 2013, Meeting Minutes – Approved. Accessed December 14, 2013. <http://www.dublin.k12.ca.us/cms/lib5/CA01001424/Centricity/Domain/5/7-11%20Approved%20Mtg.%20Minutes%204-22-13.pdf>.
- xlii According to Ron van Noord (via Charles Dehnert, PAO, DUSD, 1 August 2019 email) Valley High School started operating at the former J.R. Cronin School on York Street starting in 1988.
- xliii Dublin Unified School District website. Accessed March 17, 2015.
- xliv Dublin Unified School District 7-11 Committee Meeting, April 22, 2013, Meeting Minutes – Approved. Accessed 12/14/2013. <http://www.dublin.k12.ca.us/cms/lib5/CA01001424/Centricity/Domain/5/7-11%20Approved%20Mtg.%20Minutes%204-22-13.pdf>.
- xliv Kolb Elementary opened in August 2011. Information provided by Julie Clingerman, Secretary, Kolb Elementary School to author, October 17, 2018.
- xlvi "About our District, About Dublin Unified," Dublin Unified School District website. Accessed June 1, 2016.
- xlvii Text note from Dublin High School Athletic Director Tim Sbranti, September 9, 2019.
- xlviii Chip Dehnert, Public Information and Community Relations Officer, Dublin Unified School District, email to author, November 13, 2018.