

No matter how much my older sisters and brother told me, I could not have envisioned my experiences at Euclid High School.

It all began when my family moved from Altamonte Springs, FL in 1952. I was seven years old and eager to start second grade. During that time Euclid school ranged from 1st-12th grades and was completely segregated.

My elementary school days were exciting, fun-filled, and memorable. Some of the teachers who made a tremendous impact on me were Mrs. Ruby Robinson and Mrs. Ora Lee Harris. They demanded excellence which led to learning becoming an adventure each day.

After completing sixth grade I entered the high school section which was quite different as well as challenging. The teachers were dedicated, gifted, respected, and caring. Our sponsor, Mrs. Carol Jenkins Dandridge remained with us from 7th-12th grade. It was amazing how much we learned despite the obvious disparities that existed between DeLand High School and Euclid High. In fact, the first time I obtained a brand new book was at Florida A.&M. University in 1963. The teachers used whatever materials they had to prepare students for achieving academic excellence.

One of my most memorable experiences occurred during the Civil Rights Movement when I was a Sophomore. About 200 students marched downtown to Woolworth Store and attempted to integrate the lunch counter. Although we were not successful, it had a huge impact on my life and prepared me for many challenges in the future.

The highlight of my school life occurred when I graduated in 1962. My class consisted of 41 members and we were thrilled to move into the new school after Christmas which was named Southwestern High School. We were the first class to graduate from Southwestern. However, our diplomas were inscribed with Euclid High School.

No one could have predicted how meaningful and enriching my high school life was. Many lifelong relationships and bonds were formed that can never be broken. Although my family shared with me their perspective of life at Euclid High School, I definitely could not have foreseen the wonderful experiences that have greatly influenced my life.

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