

My memories of Southwestern Jr.-Sr. High School are two-fold. My mother, Mrs. Cornelia R. Hinson was the first Librarian (now called Media Specialists) of the school. I began my education at Southwestern in 1967. I vividly recall the biography books that were on the shelf about African-Americans that I craved reading; such as George Washington Carver, Booker. T. Washington and Mary McLeod Bethune to name a few. I enjoyed the years I was there with my Mom, but I also recall the classes with Mr. Dandridge, Big D we called him. He was always fun. Mrs. Dix was a great teacher in Home Economics. I learned to sew, not so much to cook, but I can sew, thanks to Mrs. Dix. We had so many great teachers at that time.

Homecoming was always a great time to be a Tiger! We decorated cars and floats right on campus, making sure they were right for the festivities. We took pride in our football, basketball, and baseball teams.

I remember when the teachers went on strike and we didn't go to school – I can't remember the outcome, but I do remember the days off from school. It was my desire to graduate from high school along with a lot of my other peers from Southwestern, but we were forced into integration.

When my mother, Mrs. Hinson passed in 1996, my sister (Dr. Rosalind Jones), my brothers, (Frederick R. Hinson, Freeman Hinson, Jr. and the Late David C. Hinson) donated several books to Southwestern's Library in her memory. We are hopeful that some student was able to enjoy them as much as she did.

There have been several administrators through the years and they all have done a wonderful job. I would like to personally commend its current Principal, Mrs. Mamie Oatis for her fantastic leadership as we celebrate Southwestern's 50th Year of existence!

Marilyn Hinson Jordan