A brief history of Cleveland

• Cleveland School became part of the district in 1907, with the annexation of Ohmer Park, part of the Oakland Special School District.

• After the original school was destroyed by fire, the district moved to acquire land on Pursell Avenue in 1916. The new school, named to honor President Grover Cleveland, opened October 12, 1917.

• Margaret Edwards was the first principal of the “new” Cleveland School.

• During World War II, Red Cross classes were started at Cleveland, with mothers doing the sewing. Children bought defense stamps at school. In 1943, the Cleveland School community collected 300 tons of paper, at the request of the U.S. government.

• An addition to the school was completed December 8, 1967. The main portion of the newest addition, sometimes referred to as the “Pentagon,” contained two large rooms for second- and third-grade classes. The former auditorium was reconstructed into a general office, waiting room, library, materials center, clinic and principal’s office.

• In 1989, Cleveland became a magnet school for the arts. Featured programs included theater, dance, painting, piano and photography.

• Cleveland closed in June 2002 and was razed April 7, 2004.