A brief history of Kiser

- Kiser has always been associated with being one of Dayton's smallest high schools. There were 60 students in the first graduating class. The largest graduating class was 156 students in 1948.
- The land was donated by Daniel Kiser.
- Daniel Kiser was born in 1807.
- Daniel went to live with his uncle on a farm in the Kiser area at the age of 14.
- Daniel inherited some of his uncle's farm that he donated for the school.
- In 1909, a one-room frame and two-room brick building were opened to handle the overflow from Allen and Webster schools. The site was called the Allen sub-school.
- On September 21, 1925, Daniel's son turned the first shovel of dirt in the groundbreaking ceremony.
- The school opened September 6, 1926, as Kiser Junior High, on a 10-acre tract of land.
- Kiser became a high school in 1929 and served students from the "downtown" district as well as students in the neighborhood surrounding the school.
- Emerson H. Landis was the first principal. Mr. Landis became superintendent of Dayton Public Schools in 1937.
- Emerson H. Landis chose the school colors and school mascot from his alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh.
- The class of 1932 initiated the fund to purchase the marble panther with a donation of $5000.
- The class of 1952 led staff, students and all of Old North Dayton in a funding drive to purchase the panther.
- A former student and artist, Eva Walters Zayden, created the sketch of the panther.
- Frank Black of Black and Lee Monument was a Kiser alumnus and was a key player in the development and placement of the panther.
- The Kiser Panther was sculptured in Norway from black marble. It was polished in the US and mounted on a gray granite base.
- The panther was originally set in place at the corner of Leo and Troy streets on January 21, 1960.
- The Kiser Panther weighs approximately four tons and cost $5,500.
- The Kiser Panther was moved from the corner of Troy and Leo in 1967 to the open courtyard outside the new gymnasium.
- Kiser became an Environmental Science Magnet and was named Kiser Middle School in 1982.
- Johnny Reger, a famous musician and graduate of the Kiser class of 1945, wrote the music to the Kiser alma mater song. Johnny played in a jazz band and the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra.