Louise Troy Elementary opened in 1957 on Richley Avenue, adjacent to Miami Chapel Elementary. The original Louise Troy building, which cost $396,000, served grades kindergarten through third. In 1982, the school served grades kindergarten through second. In 1990, it became a magnet school. Both Louise Troy and Miami Chapel buildings were razed in 2006 to build the new Louise Troy PK-8 School, serving grades pre-kindergarten through eighth.

The school’s namesake has a long and storied history with Dayton Public Schools. Louise Troy was born in 1860 in Xenia, the daughter of a Civil War veteran. She began teaching in the Dayton school system in 1878, in schools on Ziegler Street and on Fifth Street at Baxter Street (Dunbar). In 1887, Dayton schools were integrated, and Troy was the only African American teacher who was retained; as such, she provided teacher training to young black women in the early 1900s. Much of her teaching career was spent at Garfield School, where she taught until her retirement in 1920. Her pupils included Paul Laurence Dunbar, James Parsons and William O. Stokes.

Her civic involvement included founding the Women’s Christian Association, which later became the YWCA; in 1909, she bought the house at Fifth and Horace streets that was used for west-side YWCA activities. Troy was a co-founder and treasurer of the Dayton branch of the NAACP, located at Zion Baptist Church. In addition, she was a member of St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church in Dayton, organizing the first vested choir and playing the organ.

Louise Troy died in 1941.