

A look back at Stivers history

A legacy that endures since 1906



Stivers was originally organized as East High in 1906. The school occupied the second floor of Ruskin School on Henry Street, serving freshmen and sophomores. In 1908, officials broke ground on the site of what is now known as Stivers School for the Arts. The site, on East Fifth Street, replaced the former Lincoln School.

Built to ease crowded conditions at Steele High School, Stivers was the second high school built in the city and is currently the district's oldest operating school.

Following the school's completion in 1914, the name was changed from East High to Stivers Manual Training High School. The name honored Captain Charles Bryant Stivers, a Civil War veteran and Dayton principal. In addition to being a traditional high school, Stivers also contained four other schools: Co-operative, continuation, prevocational and make-time. Each of these schools catered to various grades and curricula, with an emphasis on preparing students for work in shop or factory trades following graduation.

In the 1920s, Stivers was home to numerous literary societies for boys and girls; one club, Olympian, published *Stylus*, the first Stivers literary magazine.

Stivers joined with Patterson Cooperative High School and Kiser Vocational High School to offer vocational education in the 1970s. Stivers, known as Stivers-Patterson Vocation High School and Stivers Prevocational High School, served ninth-grade students.

In 1982, the school became Stivers Intermediate Magnet School, serving seventh- through ninth-grade students; from 1989 to 1996, it was Stivers Middle School for the Arts, serving seventh and eighth grades.

In September 1990, the school officially became a visual and performing arts magnet. Grades nine through 12 were added beginning in 1996, and the school was renamed Stivers School for the Arts.

The school's aging structure needed major repairs, and around 2000, school and community leaders began fund-raising efforts for repair of the facility. A federal loan was obtained by the district, with a \$1 million community match as a condition. Thanks to the efforts of the *seedling* Foundation, a Stivers support organization, that match was raised in four years.

In 2001, the building was added to the National Historic Register.

