The original Meadowdale Elementary building opened for school in September 1956, serving kindergarten through third grade. The school’s time capsule was placed inside the cornerstone in a ceremony on Oct. 4, 1956.

Original construction, minus equipment, was $700,000.

The building sat on 25 acres of land in Harrison Township. It contained 23 classrooms, a multipurpose room and clinic as well as office and storage space. By 1957, the school served kindergarten through eighth grades.

By 1962, the school could no longer accommodate its growing enrollment; several classes were moved to Meadowdale High School, built adjacent to the elementary building. An eight-classroom addition was completed in early 1963; the space also contained new gymnastics and practical arts rooms.

The final addition to the building was the construction of four classrooms in 1965. At times, the school housed students from Edison Elementary until their building, destroyed by fire, was rebuilt; and added students in 1973 when Fort McKinley Elementary closed.

Two baseball celebrities attended Meadowdale: Steve Yeager, a Los Angeles Dodger voted Most Valuable Player in the 1979 World Series, attended from 1956 to 1962, and Tony Nicely, a Pittsburgh Pirate, graduated from the eighth grade at Meadowdale in 1973.

Originally, the school colors were red and white, and the mascot was the lark.