



A brief history of Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy at Roosevelt Commons



Ribbon cutting ceremony of the first Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy in the fall of 2006.

The Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy at Roosevelt Commons opened in the fall of 2006, as the district's second single-gender school. Originally located in the former McNary Elementary building on Hoover Avenue, the school served boys in pre-kindergarten through grade three in its first year. By adding a grade each year thereafter, the school will become a preK-8 school in the 2011-2012 school year.

As a district school of choice, the DBPA is open to all boys in the designated grades who live in the district. In creating the Dayton Boys Prep Academy, Dayton Public Schools officials wanted to offer another education option for district families, one that takes the unique learning styles of young men into account.

Since its inaugural year, Dayton Boys Prep has been very competitive in district as well as countywide events and contests. The school has made Adequate Yearly Progress, commonly known as AYP, for the last three years, by meeting established performance benchmarks in math, reading and attendance for grades three through eight. Points of pride include a successful chess team, drumline, boys choir and the kindergarten class's video, "We're the Best," featured on YouTube.

The school's new building is located on the site of the former Roosevelt High School. Opening in 1927, the 33,000-square-foot, multistoried building was believed to be the largest high school in the eastern half of the United States. The school was closed in 1975, and demolished in 2008 to make way for the new school.

Elements of the cherished Roosevelt High can be found both inside and out at the Boys Preparatory Academy: The land surrounding the school has been named Roosevelt Commons, and contains numerous pieces of the original stone façade embedded into the grounds. The original Roosevelt cornerstone is located next to the new school, near the front entrance. Inside, an original mosaic of the beloved school seal is displayed in a wooden case on the wall, welcoming visitors. A cast iron bell from the school hangs on a bracket near the media center.

