The new Fairview PreK-8 School at Fairview Commons is located between two original Fairview schools with long ties to the community. The original Fairview Elementary was built on West Fairview Avenue in 1926 and annexed from Harrison Township in 1930. Likewise, Fairview High School, located at the corner of Philadelphia Drive and Hillcrest Avenue, was annexed from Harrison Township in 1930; it formerly served as a county school.

While the Fairview Elementary building has served primary grades since its inception, Fairview High School was changed to a middle school in 1982, serving grades seven through nine as Fairview Intermediate. In 1987, the school served grades seven and eight and was known as Fairview Middle School. This building was closed in 2008, but used as a temporary location for Edison PreK-8 staff and students during construction of their new building.

In 2006, Dayton Public Schools joined with nearby Good Samaritan Hospital (Premier Health Partners), the City of Dayton and CityWide Development Corporation for the announcement of an innovative, wide-ranging neighborhood revitalization program. The Phoenix Project called for a new Fairview school, to be located in the heart of the redevelopment (known as Fairview Commons).

The result is the new Fairview PreK-8, located on Elsmere Drive. The school sits on a 9.7-acre campus and shares the site with the City of Dayton’s aquatic park.

The new school is also home to two historic stained glass windows, which were part of the former Fairview High School. Created by renowned artists Robert and Gertrude Metcalf, the windows were gifts to the school from two graduating classes; the 1938 window was completed in an Art Deco style and incorporates the school’s principles (“healthful,” “broadminded” and “service seeking”). The other window (pictured here) was created in 1945; depicting all four branches of the Armed Forces, it serves as a tribute to the 51 Fairview grads who lost their lives during World War II. Restoration was done by Dayton Art Glass, which also created the lightboxes that now display the windows in the school’s atrium.

Another piece of Fairview High School history included in the new school is a series of stone tablets that formerly hung above the auditorium entrance. Known as the “Four Freedom” tablets, these pieces are also displayed in the atrium.