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Bishop Neumann H.S.

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County

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Recommended Citation

Office of the County Superintendent, Saunders County, "Bishop Neumann H.S." (1976). *Saunders County Bicentennial Educational History*. 44.

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BISHOP NEUMANN H.S.

The beginnings of Neumann High School go far back into the history of the Catholic Church in the Wahoo area. However, in June of 1959 Bishop James V. Casey strongly urged the pastors of the Wahoo Deanery to consider establishing a central high school to serve the area. On April 30, 1960 a letter was sent from the pastors to Bishop Casey expressing a commitment to initiate this program. This was a momentous decision. The pastors and parishes involved were Msgr. Daniel Cooper, St. Wenceslaus Parish, Wahoo; Msgr. William Rezabek, St. John's Parish, Prague; Rev. Kasimir Bobrowski, St. Vitus Parish, Touhy; Rev. Richard Brombach, St. Mary's Parish, Valparaiso and St. Joseph's Parish, Agnew; Rev. Otto Ekhaml, St. John's Parish, Weston; Rev. John Kozlik, St. Mary's Parish, Cedar Bluffs; Rev. John Pastorak, St. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Prague; Rev. Ernest Sloup, St. Mary's Parish, Ashland; Rev. Robert Trausch, St. Joseph's Parish, Colon and St. James Parish, Mead; Rev. Ivan Vap, St. Mary's Parish, Davey; Rev. Henry Denis, St. George's and Sacred Heart Parishes, Morse Bluff. The parishes in Ashland and Morse Bluff eventually withdrew from the program because of distance and road conditions.

Fr. Ivan Vap was appointed Superintendent of the proposed school and under his direction the new building was planned and constructed. Fr. Verness Ketter was appointed Principal. The School Sisters of Notre Dame agreed to send Sisters to staff the school. On April 22, 1964 the cornerstone was laid by Bishop Casey. Two months later Fr. John Zastrow succeeded Fr. Zap as Superintendent and the construction was completed under his direction. Formal dedication was held December 20, 1964.

When it finally opened its doors in September of 1964, Neumann High School had a student body of 210 and a faculty of 13. The first senior class, 39 strong, was graduated in May, 1966. That fall two Marian Sisters joined the teaching staff

Original construction included an unfinished north wing. From this area two classrooms were constructed in 1967 and in 1972 an Industrial Arts and Art Department were added.

Since its beginning, 654 students have graduated from Neumann High School. They have gone on to many fields of activity and to many communities. The present enrollment of 260 students is an indication of Neumann's continued service to the area.

Much has happened at Neumann since those first days which is not

included in this brief summary. There have been victories and losses in athletics; our band has brought home a multitude of trophies; we have had moments of pride in drama, debate and speech; in 1973 our basketball team was a participant in the state tournament; in 1975 our football team won second class in the state Class-CI football playoff. We have also found ways to be of service to the community by assisting in such things as SCORE program, the March of Dimes, the Muscular Dystrophy Drive and by sponsoring paper drives. But most of all we have worked to prepare our students for happy and useful lives. It is our hope that Neumann will continue to work toward that goal.