



Issue 1

AHS Alumni instaNEWS

Arlington High School Alumni Association

www.ahscolts-alumni.org

P.O. Box 152578 • Arlington, Texas 76015



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Also in this issue: Tour of The Cube, Reunion Information, and Medal of Honor Museum Opens

THE CUBE



“Hey, What Happened to My Arlington High School?”

by Rickie Windle
Association Alumni Reporter

You might be sitting through the light at Cooper and Park Row after a long day, glance up and think “Hey, what happened to my Arlington High School?”

Don’t worry, it’s still there. There’s just been a little polish put to your alma mater.

This spring semester the Arlington Independent School District premiered the Fine Arts and Dual Language Academy addition to AHS. For ease, just call it The Cube in an homage to its appearance.

Along with some interior renovation of the overall HVAC, the \$73 million project from bond money approved in 2019 has added what is essentially a magnet school at the northeast corner of the school.

Its three levels give the school an updated library, science labs and expanded band, orchestra, dance and choir halls and theater classrooms. It is home for the high school years for students across the AISD who focus on such arts and study in two languages through elementary and junior high. They build a literacy fluency in the two languages,

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most often Spanish and English at this juncture, and will soon move into studying in the sciences and math in two languages.

It is part of a long history of change for the structure founded there in 1956 with 126,200 square feet. Today, Arlington High is 575,000 square feet serving 2,700 students.

But that does not mean the home of the sons and daughters of the white and green has been tossed aside for some vision of progress.

The halls, which now run from A to G, are still lined with cream walls and green lockers. At the juncture of the B Hall and the west hall is still the huge mosaic of a majestic white horse curated and donated by the Class of 1963 and restored by the Class of 1981. The courtyard still has a horseshoe shaped wall and a white fountain donated by the Class of 1960 and restored by the Class of 2008.

The new structure, which was made possible by the district buying the Texaco station that stood for decades at the Cooper/Park Row corner, dominates the school's

	THEN	NOW
	1956	2025
Square Footage	126,200	575,000 (give or take)
Administrators	1	9
Counselors		8
Staff		180
Students		2689
Gyms	1	5
Wings	A, B	A, B, C, D, E, F, G

A comparison of AHS in 1956, when the school moved to its present location, and currently.

presence now. So much so, early thought was the AHS address would change from the historic 818 Park Row to some number on Cooper Street. In review, the decision was that was tossing away too much, and 818 remains and is shorthand for the school among the knowing.

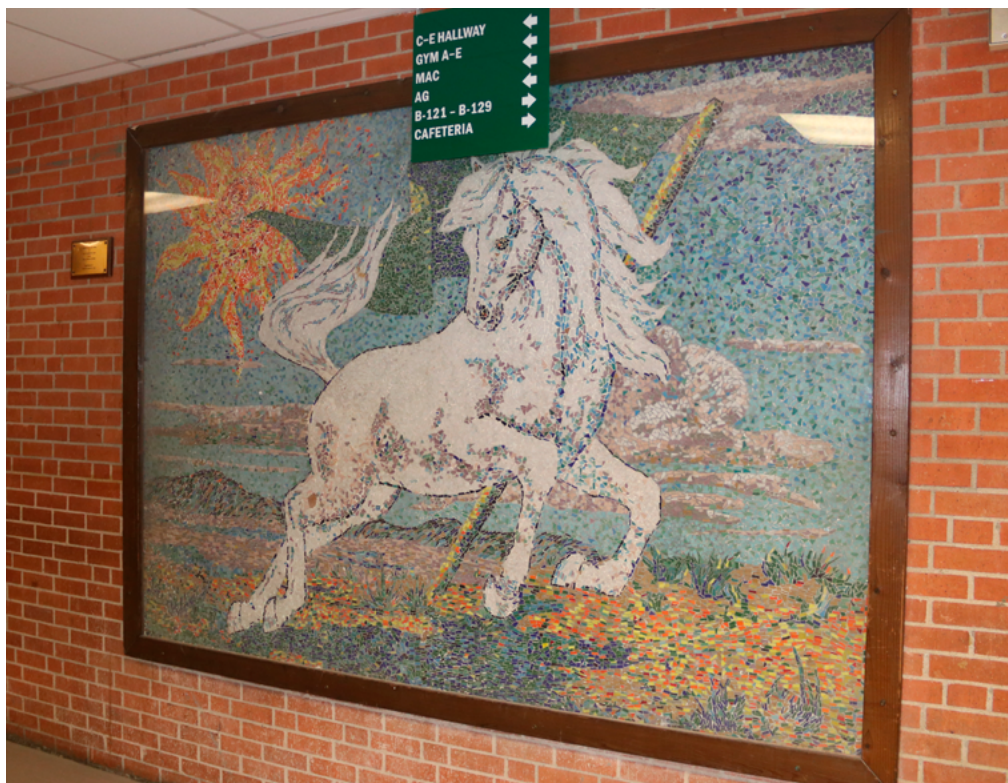
Whatever steel and glass comes to AHS, current Principal Stacie Humbles said change and challenges are not what come to her mind when

she thinks of the school. She clings to historic things, from the still annual bestowing of the Fielder Award to homecoming.

"What I feel is always what alums are doing with the school that means so much to us," Humbles said. "Our tradition is what grounds us."

One of the student leaders is senior Jocelyn Geller, president of the Peer, Assistance and Leadership at the school. Alums may be surprised by the new AHS appearance, but seniors like Geller have ridden through construction and portable buildings to get to this shining spot.

"It really connects the school in different ways," Geller said. "Everyone is excited about it and it has really brightened up school spirit."



SOME THINGS REMAIN – The huge mosaic of a majestic white horse curated and donated by the Class of 1963 and restored by the Class of 1981, still remains at the juncture of the middle and west halls.

Have a Memory of AHS You'd Like to Share?

Do you have a special memory or story about your days at AHS that you'd like to share?

How about a favorite teacher or someone who inspired you to do greater things? We'd love to hear and perhaps use in future InstaNEWS stories.

Email us at ahsColtsForever@gmail.com and let us know! And stay up to date with all Alumni happenings at: <http://www.ahscolts-alumni.org/>

Legacies “Only” Receive Opportunity To Tour Latest Additions to Arlington High School

Several members of the Alumni Association board turned out for a legacy tour of the newly opened AHS addition to “The Cube” - Arlington High School’s Fine Arts & Dual Language Academy last month.

Hosted by AHS administration, legacy alumni received refreshments before a short program outlining the recent changes at the high school. The Jazz Band and AHS Choraliers also

performed for more than 200 alumni during the program.

Principal Stacie Humbles gave a slide presentation pointing out some of the changes at the high school that accompanied The Cube, including an open concept library, a full orchestra room, band and theater rooms, and a tech lab.

In addition, the school is the only traditional high school in AISD with a Piano Lab, complete with 24 pianos, accessible to students, faculty and staff.

Science labs, a large group dance space and two art rooms equipped to support 2D and 3D art and a gallery space for an art display, along with 24 new traditional classrooms were also included in the renovation.

Following her presentation, attendees linked little fingers and joined in singing the Alma Mater.

After touring the presentation of the Legacies Only Alumni Room, attendees were encouraged to walk around and see the new rooms and equipment.

Bricks to Showcase AHS Legacy Wall

Another addition to The Cube, The AHS Legacy Wall, offers supporters the opportunity to purchase an engraved brick plaque, a lasting symbol of their dedication to the education and traditions of the Arlington High School community. Proceeds will directly support AHS programs and provide an opportunity for the AHS community to financially support the students and staff.

The Legacy Wall will be located adjacent to the AHS auditorium and will be the official entry and reception area for the auditorium.

Selling for \$200 each, the Legacy Wall bricks can be engraved with your name, class year, a favorite teacher, or simply describe your time at AHS.

For more information on purchasing a brick, scan the QR code below.



The open concept library, with its futuristic lighting, is the cornerstone for The Cube.



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS – Members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors attending The Cube Open House were recognized for their support of Arlington High over the years. They were the first to see the “Legacies Only” Alumni Room.

From Class Projects to Biography on Clyde Barrows

Legacy Room Created for AHS Alumni Only

Arlington High School Principal Stacie Humbles revealed a surprise while she was showing off her new addition to the school in March.

Humbles inaugurated The Alumni Room down the hall from her office in the

new complex dubbed The Cube.

“The history everyone brings from their time is still in this building,” Humbles said.

The center houses yearbooks, alumni scrapbooks, athletic trophies and even the plaque from the 1956 Arlington High School debut year which lists the

board of education at the time.

But the center doesn’t just contain displays for viewing pleasure. Humbles noted the file cabinets filled with all types of information and research from the times of Arlington High School. A cursory look revealed everything from class projects over the years to a

biography file on notorious outlaw Clyde Barrow.

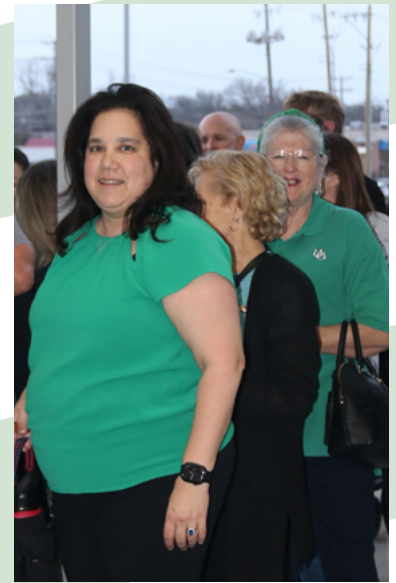
Humbles said she is counting on alumni to help glean the contents and meaning of the information in the files.

Although the address for AHS remains 818 Park Row, the main entrance to the school with access to the center is off Cooper Street.





AN ALUMNI EVENING TOUR OF THE CUBE



National Museum of Honor Meseum Opens; Names Theater in Recognition of AHS Medal Recipient

The National Medal of Honor Meseum opened in late March in the Arlington Entertainment District near the Ballpark at Arlington. The presence of Neel Kearby, the only Arlington High School graduate who has received the Medal of Honor, can be seen and felt from the moment you enter the Museum lobby.

Neel Earnest Kearby was born on June 5, 1911 in Wichita Falls. His family lived in Mineral Wells before moving to Arlington in 1924. Kearby entered Arlington High School as a freshman, graduating with the class of 1928. He spent the 1930 and 1931 school years as a member of the cadet corps at North Texas Agricultural College (now the University of Texas at Arlington). In 1934 he enrolled at the University of Texas in Austin to study business administration, graduating in early 1937. He then joined the Army Air Corps, beginning a military career that would garner national recognition.

By the summer of 1943, Colonel Kearby was commanding officer of the 248th Fighter Group, an Army Air Force unit operating in the Southwest Pacific Theater. Flying their famous P-47 "Thunderbolts," Kearby's pilots inflicted heavy losses on Japanese forces.

History recognizes Kearby as a superb pilot and tactician, and credits him in particular for developing strategies to maximize the high-altitude capability and extraordinary diving speed of the P-47. Often leading missions himself, he destroyed 22 enemy planes in only a few months of combat, becoming one of the greatest fighter pilots of WWII. He received the Medal of Honor for destroying six enemy aircraft during a single mission in October, 1943.

He was killed in action and buried with full military honors, next to his brother, Army Major John Gallatin Kearby III, who also died during the war.

A Texas state historical marker and a life-sized statue of Kearby stand on the grounds of the Arlington Public Library in recognition of his legacy. In addition, a plaque recounting Kearby's life can be found in the hallway, outside the AHS Cafeteria.



Surrounding the lobby ceiling are the names of all the current Medal of Honor recipients. Behind the reception desk and one of the first things that can be seen, is the theater, which is also named in Kearby's honor. The AHS alumni's name can be found above the theater, on panel 65, row 9.

Kearby, a 1928 graduate, was one of the most acclaimed fighter pilots in American history. During World War II, he was awarded the nation's highest award for valor. The Army Air Force Colonel also received two Silver Stars, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, five Air Medals, and the Purple Heart. He is one of only 3,528 on whom the Medal of Honor has been bestowed, as to date.





*If your graduating year ends in 0 or 5,
you may be having a reunion this year!*

Contact Ella Jo McGovern,
at AHSColtsforever@gmail.com, with any
information and we'll help spread the word.

Stay up to date and get upcoming reunion
contact information at
<http://www.ahscolts-alumni.org/>

CLASS OF 1975

The Class of 1975 will hold several celebrations for its 50th Reunion this year.

The gatherings will start Friday, June 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at J. Gilligan's Bar and Grill at 407 E. South St. There is no charge and attendees will be responsible for their own food and drinks.

Two dinners will be held the following night, June 14. One will be at Esperanza Restaurant in Fort Worth. Dinner is included in the \$40 ticket price and there will be a cash bar. Another event will be held that night in Arlington at Candlelight Inn. Attendees will be responsible for their food and drink, but reservations are requested.

For more information or reservations, visit the **AHS 75 THE BIG 5-0** site on Facebook.

CLASS OF 1980

The Class of 1980 will be holding their 45th Reunion from 5-8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, at Division Brewing, located at 506 E. Main Street in Arlington.

Division Brewing is Arlington's first locally owned and operated brewery, providing hand-crafted beer and serves tavern style pizza, burgers, and salads.

There is no venue charge; however attendees are expected to pay for their own food and drink. For more info, contact Lori Richman at lorisrichman@yahoo.com.

CLASS OF 2005

Rekindle memories and renew friendships at the 20th high school reunion sponsored by the graduating Class of 2005 on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10 and 11.

The nighttime festivities are scheduled to begin at 7:00 at the Chicken N Pickle, 2965 State Hwy. 161, in Grand Prairie. A fajita bar, music and

DJ, along with a Photo Booth to capture the memories, will be provided.

The following evening, an informal event will be held at 7:00 at J. Gilligan's, 407 E. South St., in Arlington.

The \$55 per person payment, can be made online through Zelle: ColtsReunion05@gmail.com or Venmo: ColtsReunion05.

Class of '63 Celebrates 80th Birthdays

AHS Class of '63 held a special birthday celebration at J. Gilligan's on Saturday, March 15, where over 50 classmates were in attendance, including Rusty Workman, holding up the Colt sign. His dad was Coach Workman, who began his 33-year career in the AISD as an assistant football coach at AHS.

Edward Nowaski, left, chats with classmate Tom DeFrank, remembering days from elementary school at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School through AHS graduation.



COMING NEXT MONTH IN *instaNEWS*...

- **May 1** is the deadline to submit nominations for **2025 Distinguished Colts Awards**. See the nomination form on our website: www.ahscolts-alumni.org.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9)** will be highlighted with a luncheon hosted by the Alumni Association to show our appreciation for their hard work and tireless efforts.
- School is approaching year-end with **Senior Awards** to be presented **Thursday, May 15**. Ten AHS seniors will be presented with Scholarship Awards of \$2,000 each, by the AHS Alumni Association, for further education.
- The annual **AISD Sports Awards Banquet** will be held **Wednesday, May 28**.
- The **July 4th Parade** is just around the corner! If you'd like to volunteer to help or participate with the AHS Alumni Association, contact Michele Barlen at mmbarlen@yahoo.com.

For more information on any Alumni event, check out our webpage at www.ahscolts-alumni.org, or find us on social media at  **Arlington High School Alumni Association**

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THAT GRADUATING SENIOR? WE HAVE THE ANSWER!

Give them a membership to the AHS Alumni Association! For only \$35/year (or \$125 for a lifetime membership), they can stay connected to their classmates, keep informed of opportunities to participate in upcoming events through our digital newsletters, and give back to their Alma Mater! **SPIRIT • PRIDE • TRADITION** – It's what we're all about!

Scan the QR Code below, or find us online, to fill out the application and start making a difference, today!

Making a Difference Together!
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