

## Gabriel Richard School – Riverview, Mich.



Gabriel Richard High School in Riverview, Mich., was created in 1965 as a central Catholic high school for the Wyandotte, Mich., area. Sponsoring parishes were St. Elizabeth, St. Stanislaus, St. Helena, Sacred Heart, St. Patrick, St. Joseph and St. Cyprian.

The plan for the school was to add one grade each year. That first year, 137 students enrolled in ninth grade. Classes were broken into four groups, with two meeting in the morning and the other two in the afternoon in

two rooms St. Patrick Parish donated. The convent housed sisters from different religious communities, including two IHM Sisters.



Groundbreaking for the Gabriel Richard building took place Oct. 17, 1965. "The pastors of all...participating parishes were present and took part in the ceremony," the convent chronicler reports.

The building was ready for occupancy in September 1966. Four IHM Sisters, along with Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Francis and Dominican Sisters, taught the 288 ninth- and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders. It was a busy school year for all. The Home-School Council was organized;

students made Christmas baskets for needy families within St. Patrick Parish; the Civics Club, Junior Classical League, Latin Club and boys' sports provided extracurricular activities." The chronicler notes that "Cafetorium lunch service started in February," and that "the vending machines supplied hot foods, cold drinks and snacks."

"Richard Week" began in 1967 – the year Gabriel Richard organized its National Honor Society. The following year, the first with all four high school grades, the school held its first homecoming; first College Night; first school play and first farewell dance for seniors. The first prom took place at Cobo Hall, and "Prom goes mat at Richard for punch and cookies before the big event." The school also began such long-standing traditions as the Mardi Gras dance; an art festival, and an all-night party for the graduating seniors.

The Class of 1972, our **Featured Class Year**, chose **Thomas Thompson** as its president and **Lorine Schmidt** as vice president. The class colors were forest green and gold; class flower was the baby rose; and class song was "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," by Simon and Garfunkle. That school year, sophomore **Jim Danz** set a new school record in cross country, running 2.5 miles in 12:48; "Richard Week" activities included crowning **Nancy Livernois** as homecoming queen; **Dave Harmon** ruled as





king during the Sadie Hawkins dance; and prom was truly an "Enchanted Evening" at the Roostertail.

Although the IHM Sisters took a less active role at Gabriel Richard as the 1970s gave way to the '80s and '90s, they continued their ministry until 2002, when Sister Ann Marie (Naomi) L'Esperance, IHM, retired. The school continues to be a vital presence, with more than 400 students currently enrolled.

## **In 1972**

The United States Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty is unconstitutional.

Five men were apprehended by police in an attempt to bug Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s Watergate complex.

The Munich Olympic Games were marred by tragedy when 11 Israeli athletes were killed after eight members of an Arab terrorist group invaded Olympic Village.

Super Bowl VI was a blowout when the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Miami Dolphins 24-3. It took seven games, but the Oakland A's defeated the Cincinnati Reds to win the World Series.

Atari introduced the arcade version of *Pong*, the first video game.

*Brian's Song* received an Emmy Award for "Outstanding Single Program, Drama or Comedy." *All in the Family* won an Emmy for "Outstanding Series, Comedy." Three of the show's stars, Carroll O'Connor, Jean Stapleton and Sally Struthers, also won Emmys.

The National Institute of Mental Health and the U.S. Surgeon General issued a report that exposure to violence on television fosters aggression in children.

Women dominated the Grammy Awards, taking all four top categories. Carole King won Record, Album and Song of the Year, while Carly Simon was named the Best New Artist.

Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT) scanning was developed in England. Prozac (fluoxetine) was developed by Bryan B. Malloy (Scotland) and Klaus K. Schmiegell (U.S.).