

HIGHLAND HOME SCHOOL

As members of the Highland Home Flying Squadron family, we are very proud of our school's history. Highland Home School began as Strata Academy on September 8, 1856. From 1879 to 1881, Strata Academy had many students who contracted typhoid fever. After this sickness caused three deaths, the founder, J.M. Barnes decided to move the school.

During the spring and summer of 1881, this new school was built on five hundred acres of land 6 miles south of Strata, one mile over the Crenshaw County line. Not only did this mark the birth of a new school, it also marked the creation of a new town. The new school was located on a high narrow ridge, so the new town was appropriately named Highland Home. The new school, Highland Home Institute, brought culture to frontier Alabama with classes in music, foreign language, science, literature and drama, reading writing, and arithmetic.

On October 1, 1889, the school's name changed to Highland Home College. In June of 1916, after several years of reduced funding and fewer students enrolling, the property of the college was sold for \$5.00 and was to be used as the location of a local high school. The school was named Crenshaw County High School, and it educated both elementary and high school students. The mascot for Crenshaw County High School was the Panthers.

During World War II, many members of the high school's football team were drafted and served in the United States Military's Airborne Division. One afternoon a neighborhood spotter, who was watching for French airplanes spotted fourteen or fifteen planes flying overhead. He ran to the school and called the coach out to look at the planes. When the coach saw them he replied, "Why, that's a whole squadron of them." When the young men returned from the war, the school began to put the football team back together. In honor of their service in the Airborne Division, the team's mascot was changed to "The Flying Squadron." Gradually, the school's name changed from Crenshaw County High School to Highland Home High School.

On Friday, February 4, 1972, the main office building burned. Four days later, classes resumed in the gym where six classrooms had been set up. Within the next year, a new main building had been completed. Over the years, there have been many additions and renovations to our campus. Perhaps the most notable change occurred in October of 2008 when our long-awaited F-16 fighter jet was lifted into its place of honor on the school's campus. We have much to be proud of here at Highland Home School. There are few schools that can compete with our rich history that spans over 155 years. Highland Home School has seen many changes and much progress; however, progress has not ended nor will it ever end.

Together our leadership team, Cliff Maddox, principal, Doug Bailey and Dr. Victoria K. Reese, assistant principals are working hard to continue the implementation of reform at Highland Home School. This reform will assist in building teachers' and students' morale, community involvement, and the engagement of parents in supporting academics and the social and emotional growth of students school-wide.

Highland Home School is a small, rural K4-12 school located in Crenshaw County, Alabama. It is a Title I school consisting of three administrators, two counselors, one media specialist, 51 certified personnel, and 29 support staff personnel. The enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year is approximately 733 students. Currently, there are 52% males enrolled and 48% females. The specific demographics by ethnic background is: 73% Caucasians, 23% African Americans, and 3% Hispanics. The school continues to see student growth within the elementary population in recent years.