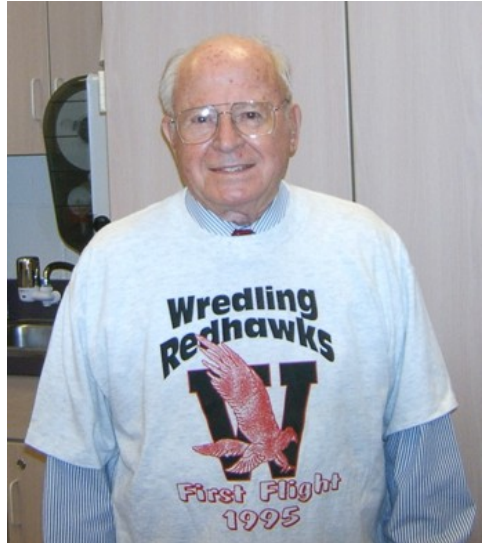


# A BRIEF HISTORY OF WREDLING MIDDLE SCHOOL



*We are honored to have Wredling Middle School named after Mr. John H. Wredling, who was Superintendent of Schools from 1968 to 1972. Mr. Wredling was an active part of Wredling up until his passing at the age of 101.*



*Bob Lindahl, Melissa Dockum, Steve Morrill , first three principals of Wredling Middle School, with Mr. Wredling at his 100th Birthday celebration in 2014.*

## **St. Charles School History**

**(Updated history as of 9-5-2024)**

### A BRIEF HISTORY

St. Charles was founded in 1833 by Evan Shelby. Its early schools were purely traditional, with a strong rivalry between the east and west side. About 1917, a departmental organization was set up for Grades 7-8, in accordance with educators' belief that a teacher highly skilled in one field could do a better teaching job if he taught his own particular subject, rather than all subjects. In 1919, when Mr. George Thompson returned to St. Charles from a tour of duty in the Navy and became Superintendent of Schools, he set up the Haines Junior High School, named after Mayor and benefactor Charles Haines, as a bridge between the elementary and high school. The curriculum followed new trends and was enriched. Physical education became compulsory; general science was introduced; industrial arts and home economics were added.

From 1919 to 1926, the junior and senior high school students were housed under one roof in the old Haines School, which was on a site just north of the Public Library. In 1926, the high school moved to its new building, leaving the junior high in full possession of Haines, which teamed with activities under the capable direction of Principal Alice Davis. Because of increased enrollment, the junior high school was moved to the new wing of the high school in September 1953. The first wing of a new junior high building was occupied in 1959 by the 7th grade and administration offices. In September of 1961, grades 7 and 8 were again housed under the same roof after the completion of the present Haines Middle School. In September 1964, an addition made it possible for Haines Middle School to serve grades 7, 8, and 9. Beginning in September 1973, Dunham Junior High School (now part of St. Charles High School) was built to house all 7th graders. Haines Middle School continued to serve grades 8 and 9.

With the completion of the Dunham Road high school complex in 1977, Haines Junior High was joined by Thompson Junior High (the old St. Charles High School) in serving students in grades 6, 7, and 8.

In 1993, the District began calling Haines and Thompson "Middle Schools" in recognition of successful use of interdisciplinary teams and other age appropriate initiatives in both schools. Continued population growth resulted in the opening of Wredling Middle School at the corner of Red Gate Road and Route 31 in the Fall of 1995. Further growth in the community warranted converting the "original" Wredling into St. Charles North High School for the Fall of 2000. With this change, Wredling moved into an enlarged, but basically identical facility on Dunham Road.

In the fall of 2016, the Board of Education voted to consolidate Haines and Thompson Middle Schools, and move forward with a two-year 45-million-dollar renovation project at Thompson. Beginning in the fall of 2017, sixth graders in the Thompson/Haines boundary area attended school at the Thompson building while seventh and eighth graders in the Thompson/Haines

boundary attended school at the Thompson 7/8 center, formerly Haines Middle School. Since the fall of 2019, all students in the Thompson/Haines boundary are attending middle school in the upgraded Thompson Middle School.

We are honored to have our building named after John H. Wredling, who was Superintendent of Schools from 1958 - 1972. Mr. Wredling's influence on our school community is immeasurable, and for decades he was a community pillar, leader, and role model. Since the opening of Wredling Middle School in 1995, Mr. Wredling played an integral role in helping to establish the culture at Wredling Middle School. Mr. Wredling passed away on October 3, 2015 at the age of 101.