

# Historical Future Hampton High School

*Past meets present as former graduates meet future graduates of newly built Hampton High School after school closed in 1954.*

By JD Hardin

TO ENVISION THE FUTURE, SOME WOULD ARGUE YOU need to be able to see, or at least understand the past. If the most recent historical perspective is nearly six decades before your time, a link must be sought to bridge that gap.

Such is the case with the Hampton High School Class of 2016 and one of its members, junior student, Alexandria White. Alex, as she is known to her friends and classmates, will be part of the first class to graduate from Hampton High School in more than 60 years when they turn their tassels in May of 2016.

There is much history to be learned about the original Hampton High School and its previous graduates. Lucky for Alex and the Hampton community, several members of graduating classes from back in the 1940's and 1950's are around and have been eager to offer up detailed recollections of a simpler, yet equally challenging time.

Class of 1943 member, Cecil Hand, is one such bridge to the past for Alex, her classmates, and the new Hampton High School community. Having only a modest structure for classroom space and only 12 students in your class, allows Cecil to speak to the simpler times. Growing up during the Great Depression and ending school during the time of World

War II, points to just a few of the challenges this long-retired community member and his former classmates overcame.

Fast-forward to today, and you'll find a brand new building consisting of over 270,000 square feet of high-tech classrooms and state-of-the-art resources for students to use in preparation for college and/or a career. Approximately 800 students, along with faculty and staff, are the first to occupy the tenth comprehensive high school in Henry County. The challenges that await students in today's world, especially when it comes to learning, look a lot different from those of previous generations.

Alex notes that she is fortunate to be able to attend such a great school where teaching and learning is personalized to meet her needs. Cecil says the same thing about his time in school. Both are correct as one is currently making important choices geared towards a successful future, while the other recalls and celebrates the chance at a successful future, thanks to the previous Hampton High School.

A solid, positive legacy is important to both individuals. One has left his, and now it is time for the other to develop and leave hers.