

Cosumnes River Elementary School History

ko-sum = Miwok word for salmon

“With gratitude to the pioneers of yesterday; with respect for the pioneers of today; with hope for the pioneers of tomorrow.” – **dedication in 1976 Cosumnes River Elementary School yearbook**

Welcome to the Cosumnes River Elementary School website! We are as proud of our past as we are excited about what the future holds! The history of our community is wide ranging and diverse. From the fast paced gold days in the mid-19th Century, continuing through the building of the strong agricultural base that began with livestock and crops like hops and lives on today with grapes and other seasonal delights! Today, our community is a network of rural and suburban lifestyles that intertwine and come together beautifully here at Cosumnes River Elementary School! Cosumnes River Elementary School is “our oasis of academic excellence,” a special place that truly bridges the past and the future!

The Cosumnes River Elementary School sits on the north bank of its namesake river, overlooking the vineyards that lie beyond. We are often credited with being the oldest continuously operating school in the EGUSD. This is because our school stands near the original site of the first real schoolhouse in the area, the Rhoads School. This school was built by Jared Dixon Sheldon on the Cosumnes River in the 1840s. It was replaced by the *new* Rhoads School in 1872 as flooding was an annual problem at the original site. It is this new Rhodes School that sits today in Elk Grove Park. In the fast paced gold days when miners filled the banks of the Cosumnes, there were many school districts formed to provide education for the children of the families that followed the gold. Most of these districts and their schools, with names like Sebastopol, Katesville, and Live Oak, ceased to exist after 1883. Others, like Michigan Bar, Stone House, Wilson, and Rhoads School, continued to provide a place of learning for the children of families who made the Cosumnes River Valley their homes. But by the early 1900s, many of these buildings were well passed their primes.

In 1946, local residents decided it was time for a change. Ranchers Lester and Faye Ledbetter were approached by Stanley Van Vleck, Avellino Signorotti, Fred Van Vleck, Elmer Augustine, and Jake Schneider about procuring a location for a new school to replace three older, dilapidated, and inadequate one room school houses. They were seeking a location close to the center of population in the Slough House (as it was then known) community. The Ledbetters agreed to donate a portion of their property between Jackson Road and the Cosumnes River to the newly formed Cosumnes River Union Elementary School District. In 1947, voters approved the issuance of \$50,000 in bonds to build the Cosumnes River School. Thus, in 1948, Cosumnes River Union Elementary School opened on our current site, the result of a merger of four schools – Michigan Bar, Stone House, Wilson, and Rhoads School. Under the guidance of principal Mrs. Elvena Butzbach, the school’s first students passed through its halls in 1948. Ten years later the Cosumnes River Elementary School became part of the newly-formed Elk Grove Unified School District.

More than sixty years later, history repeated itself when, in 2008, the Elk Grove Unified School District again approached representatives of the Ledbetter-Mosher family about purchasing property around the site of the aging CRES campus. As they did in 1946, the family saw a need to improve facilities and came to terms with the district to provide approximately 15 acres of oak-dotted grassland along the Cosumnes River. As in 1948, this land was used to benefit the children of the community by becoming the site of a new, larger, modern Cosumnes River Elementary School. The new Cosumnes River Elementary School opened to the delight of our community in August, 2010, just west of the old campus site. In tribute to the Ledbetter-Mosher Family's history of contributions to the education of children in our community, we named our beautiful library "The Lester and Faye Ledbetter Library" - a fitting honor for the Ledbetter family's contributions then and now. The EGUSD Board of Education unanimously supported this recommendation at their board meeting on September 7, 2010.

CRES Principals from 1948 through 2008

1946-47 through 1949-50	Mrs. Elvena Butzbach
1950-51 through 1951-52	Mrs. Pearl Miller
1952-53 through 1954-55	Mr. A. L. Fitzpatrick
1955-56 through 1956-57	Mrs. James K. Welch
1957-58 through 1958-59	Mr. Anthony Mundo
1959-60 through 1961-62	Mr. Raymond Henwood
1962-63	Mr. John M. Huftile
1963-64 through 1965-66	Mr. Jack F. Huff
1966-67 through 1967-68	Mr. Marshall J. Courtney
1968-69 through 1969-70	Mr. Edward Phippin
1970-71 through 1973-74	Mr. Arnold J. Adreani
1974-75 through 1976-77	Mr. Joe Way; Mr. Curtiss Wheeler, Administrative Assistant
1977-78 through 1981-82	Mr. Dan Owens; Mr. Dave Givens and Mrs. Eunice DelBono (Administrative Assistants)
1982-83 through 1985	Mrs. Irene West
1986 through 1995-96	Mrs. Judy Hunt-Brown
1996-97 through 1998-99	Mrs. Margaret Ehlers
1999-2000 through 2002-03	Mr. Michael Sompayrac
2003-04 through 2006-07	Mr. Michael Anderson
2007-08 to present	Mr. Michael Gulden