

## SCHOOL PROFILE

### High Point Elementary

The Ray School was the forerunner of the High Point School. Ray, a one-room school built in the 1800's, was located on a hill near where the present High Point Elementary School is located.

The original High Point School of Washington County, Virginia, opened in 1911. It was a two-room school building which served both as an elementary and a high school. This school was located approximately five miles from Bristol on King Mill Pike, about one mile from where the present High Point Elementary School is located. In 1960, a school census showed the High Point area to be one of the fastest growing districts in Southwest Virginia. A total of 491 preschool and school-age children were reported.



The present High Point Elementary School, located about one mile off King Mill Pike, opened its doors to 540 students on January 18, 1965, instructing students in grades 1 through 7. In 1967, enrollment had grown to 990 students due to continued growth in population of the suburban areas served by the school. To accommodate this increase in student population, construction on a new addition began in September 1970. The project was completed in November 1971. In 1975, the city of Bristol annexed a portion of Washington County, which reduced the enrollment by 50%.

In 1991, Washington County Schools adopted the "middle school concept". High Point Elementary became a K through 5 school accepting new students from the former Wallace Elementary, which became one of the four county middle schools. In the late 1990s, the first special education preschool program was established at High Point Elementary, followed by a preschool for at-risk four-year-olds in the fall of 2000. In addition, Title I services such as Reading Recovery and Kindergarten Intervention were added.

Over the years, the grounds and facility have been updated and maintained to comply with standards of safety and comfort. A new addition was built in 2009 which currently houses art, music, preschool, library, and a computer lab. In 2014, an additional 8 acres of land was purchased in order to further expand the school's parking lots, car-rider line, and playground areas.

The school currently employs 88 staff members including 43 teachers, and serves approximately 600 students in grades PreK-5. The ethnicity of the school is composed of 95.8%

Caucasian, 2.4% Hispanic, and 1.8% other. Approximately 50% of the student body is eligible for free/reduced lunch. Average daily attendance is 95%. The average pupil teacher ratio is 20:1. Approximately 63% of the staff has 5 or more years of experience, and 30% percent of the staff has a master's degree. The school enjoys a supportive community and an active PTA, and seeks to give back to the community which supports it by providing clothing, food, and toys for many of the children and their families.

High Point Elementary School is dedicated to the success of every student by providing a learning environment in which all students can reach their fullest potential. The High Point staff, parents, community, and all stakeholders strive to provide the best learning opportunities and resources available.

High Point has been served by six principals since 1965: Mr. Jim Gumm, 1964-1965; Mr. Guessner Musick, 1965-1989; Mr. Gary McCool, 1989-1998; Mrs. Judy Wilson, 1998-2000; Miss Patricia Sorah, 2000-2007; Ms. Ann Cunningham, 2007-2012; and Dr. Sherry King, 2012-Present.

**THE VISION OF HIGH POINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS TO ENSURE  
MEANINGFUL ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS.  
OUR MISSION IS TO ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP STUDENTS TO SET AND ACHIEVE  
THEIR GOALS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE HIGH POINT COMMUNITY.**