



Gaylord High School Band - 1930's

school was a frame structure located about three blocks west of the railroad on West Main Street. This school was built in 1883 and used until 1889. Gaylord's population then was about 700, and the first tenth grade graduating class had five members. Those going on to college could complete grades eleven and twelve.

In December 1890 the pupils moved into a new brick building holding all twelve grades. It was two-story with a basement, electricity, drinking fountains, and two dining rooms. In 1904 an addition doubled its size. This building was located just south of the present Methodist Church where tennis courts and the Youth Center are today. This school was used until 1951 when a new building, the present High School, was dedicated, but only elementary children used it until the beginning of the next year. In 1958 part of the elementary grades were moved into a new building now known as the Middle School. In 1962 more classrooms were added to this building to house grades from kindergarten through sixth, but in 1970 nine portable classrooms were needed to accommodate the

overflow.

Extensive additions were also made to the High School Building in 1964, then in 1971 two new Elementary Schools were built making the former Elementary Building a Middle School for grades five through eight.

No account of the schools would be complete without a history of St. Mary's Church School. In 1893 a two-story four room school was built as an elementary school. Classes were taught by lay teachers until 1910 when Dominican Sisters came. In 1924 the building was modernized and in 1926 a ninth grade was added. From then on until 1929, one grade was added each year with six students graduating in the first class. A new school was opened in 1953 but in 1960 a fire destroyed the elementary wing. Two years later a new elementary school was dedicated but in 1964 portable classrooms had to be added. Today a cooperative plan has been worked out with Gaylord High School for shared classes.