



Celebrating 75 Years of “Excellence in Education”

In the Oak Ridge Schools

*Stories told by students and teachers from each year, 1944-2018*

To be released September 2018

**Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation**

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The Education Foundation plans to release a special book project to celebrate the upcoming seventy-fifth anniversary of the Oak Ridge Schools. The book is a collection of memories as told by teachers and alumni across all classes from 1944-2018. The Foundation identified individuals to serve as Anchor Authors for each of the seventy-five classes. Anchor Authors had the option to share their memories and many collected memories from classmates. The book will be about 250 pages. In an effort to conserve any unpublished stories the Foundation will offer a virtual archive where those stories can be accessed. The Foundation has partnered with Oak Ridge Schools and Iris Publishing. In addition many current and retired teachers are playing various roles from editing and designing, to serving as Anchor Authors.

*Sharron Quarles, Teacher Memory:*

Elementary teachers often allowed children to have a special share day each week. One day a little guy brought a small recording device that he and his aunt had secretly lifted from Walmart. He was very proud of how they had procured it without being caught. He expertly exhibited how it worked by speaking into it and replaying his command back to the class. He allowed several children to try it out with different messages. Suddenly, he thrust it in my face and said, "Mrs. Quarles, you try it. Just say whatever is on your mind." I said, "Thou should not steal!" When played it back to the class, they were all excited to hear my voice recorded. As he concluded his presentation, he said, "I can't wait to get home and play these all back for my aunt!"

*Excerpt from Class of 1944:*

Seniors chose the school colors of cardinal and gray and the Wildcat as mascot, purchased class rings with gray pearl settings, and held the first senior prom. On a spring afternoon, they devised an impromptu "senior skip day" at the Ridge Theater in Jackson Square where they viewed the movie, For Whom the Bell Tolls. Lest future classes be tempted to follow their

example, each “skipper” was assigned a 1500 word essay on “Good Citizenship” to be submitted before readmission and good standing to graduate.