

EDISON THROUGH TIME

Edison began as a one-story framed building known as Portage School, on the west side of Portage Street and eventually became part of Kalamazoo Public Schools in 1861 with the expansion of the village boundaries.

In 1875, the district purchased property at the corner of Lake and Russell streets and in 1877 built a new school on the one-acre property. The building underwent several renovations and expansions in: 1880, 1877, 1891, 1899, 1912, 1923.

In 1957, all parts of the building except the 1923 addition were demolished. Through the next decades, there were several other expansions, including a 1969 addition that housed the Boys' Club, which eventually became the Boys & Girls Club.

The name of the school changed from Lake Street School to Edison School in honor of Thomas A. Edison, following the inventor's death in 1931.

It became a magnet school and was renamed the Edison Environmental Science Academy in 1999.

In 2021, the entire structure was demolished as construction began on a new building.

In 2023 it was renamed Edison Academy, and it reopened in August 2023 after a two-year construction project. The two-story, 70,000-square-foot school has 21 classrooms; plus art, music, and STEM rooms; a media center, gym, and cafeteria.

Construction cost \$18 million, which was funded in part by a bond approved by voters in 2018. Furniture, furnishings, equipment, technology, architect and construction management fees added about another \$7 million in costs to the project.

EDISON FACTS

- Small one-story framed building, known as Portage School located on west side of Portage Street, north of Lake Street. It came into possession of Kalamazoo Public Schools due to extension of the village limits in 1861.
- 1875 School district purchased lot on the corner of Lake and Russell streets for \$900 from David Merrill and William McCourtie.
- 1877 a two-story, four room brick building erected. Total cost of the buildings, grounds and furniture \$7,000.
- Sometime around 1878 name changed to Lake Street School.
- First playground for KPS opened in 1908; by 1909 playgrounds at Lovell, Vine, Frank and Lake Street. Originally run by the women's group the Playground Association. Lake Street was run by Miss Martha Bliss, a student at Woodward. Playground open 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 5:30- 8 p.m. during summer hours. By 1909 Kalamazoo Public Schools was in charge.



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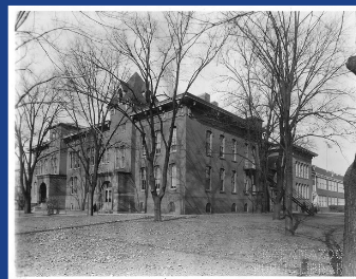
MISSION STATEMENT

At Edison Academy everyone is a continual learner. Staff and students engage in rigorous learning opportunities. Each child will engage in rigorous learning opportunities. Each child will engage in meaningful, real-world experiences that he or she needs for high school, college, and the future.

•Achievement matters. •Attendance matters. •Attitude matters.



Lake Street School - Turn of the Century



1946



Edison - 1960