

## Washington Elementary School Principals

1. Leslie E. Read: 1954 to 1966
2. Jack Abrams: 1966 to 1969
3. Stephen Good: 1969 to 1970
4. Olga Smith: 1970 to 1991
5. John J. Finello: 1991 to May 2000
6. Lois Markland: May 2000 to 2005
7. Jeffrey Kasper: 2005-2006
8. Marsha Neville: 2006-2018
9. Dr. Michelle Richards: 2018 to present

Washington Elementary School and its sister schools, Flower Hill and Southdown, opened in September 1954. All three were dedicated on Saturday, September 18, 1954 with School Board President Richard McCormack presiding. Washington's was held at 2 p.m. Residents had an opportunity to tour each of the structures beginning at 1 p.m. and continuing throughout the afternoon.

Washington Elementary School, like its sister schools, originally consisted of 13 classrooms for students from kindergarten through sixth grade. While it was under construction, it was known as Whitson Road Elementary School, before School Board members later decided to name new elementary schools erected south of 25A after U.S. presidents. (Interestingly, this policy was ignored when Roosevelt Elementary School was demolished and replaced by Huntington Elementary School.)

During its early years, the parcel of land adjacent to Washington's west boundary was a horse training and racing facility, with barns and tracks. Crowds turned out on weekends to watch horse races. The site was later sold to developers and now features traditional suburban housing.

During a meeting on January 7, 1958, the Huntington School Board approved the idea of adding a new wing to Washington, Southdown and Flower Hill schools at a combined cost of \$800,000. Washington's new wing housed classes for the first time on November 24, 1958.

When construction was finally complete, each building had 19 classrooms for grades 1-6, two kindergarten rooms (kindergarten was then offered in split morning and afternoon half-day sessions), two smaller music rooms, a combination gym/auditorium and a cafeteria, in addition to a main office, nurse's office, faculty room and kitchen facilities.