

Proposal to Honor the Legacy of Olanta High School

Submitted By:

Class of 1980 and Supporting Alumni

Purpose

The graduating Class of 1980 respectfully requests approval from the School Board to place a commemorative alumni sign/banner at or near the former Olanta High School campus, now operating as the middle school.

This proposal is intended to preserve the history, pride, and educational legacy of Olanta High School for future generations of students, families, and community members.

Background

The Class of 1980 holds a unique and historic place in the story of Olanta High School. Our class was the final graduating high school class to complete its education at this location before the campus transitioned into a middle school facility.

For generations, this school served as the educational foundation for families throughout the community. Parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and children all walked these same halls, participated in the same traditions, and built lifelong relationships through this institution.

Today, while the building serves a new purpose, its legacy as Olanta High School continues to hold deep meaning for alumni and the surrounding community.

Purpose of the Sign

The proposed sign/banner would serve several important purposes:

- Honor the history and traditions of Olanta High School
- Recognize the final graduating Class of 1980
- Celebrate approximately fifteen graduating classes and multiple generations of alumni
- Provide a lasting symbol of community pride
- Encourage younger students to appreciate the educational legacy of their town
- Preserving local history for future generations

In many small towns, schools are more than buildings — they represent unity, memories, pride, and identity. This display would provide the community with something meaningful to celebrate and remember.

Proposed Placement

We respectfully request assistance from the School Board and school administration in identifying a safe, secure, and appropriate location on or near school grounds for the display.

Our goal is to ensure the sign:

- Does not interfere with school operations
- Maintains student safety
- Enhances the appearance of the campus
- Remains visible and respectful to the school environment

We are open to recommendations regarding:

- Placement location
- Size requirements
- Mounting specifications
- Maintenance expectations
- Duration of display

Commitment to the School Community

The Class of 1980 and participating Olanta School Alumni Association are committed not only to honor the past, but also to supporting the future of the school and its students.

We are willing to return annually to partner with the middle school in ways that positively benefit students and staff. Depending on the school's needs and preferences, alumni participation could include:

- Student recognition activities
- Educational support initiatives
- School beautification efforts
- Scholarship opportunities
- Career encouragement and mentoring
- Community appreciation events

We hope this project can become a bridge between generations while reinforcing pride in the school and community.

Closing

The former Olanta High School represents a significant chapter in the lives of countless families throughout this community. While the building's role has changed, its importance has not.

We respectfully ask the School Board to consider this proposal and allow us the opportunity to preserve and honor the legacy of Olanta High School in a positive, respectful, and community-centered way.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued service to the students and families of this community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Class of 1980 Alumni
Olanta High School

Example:



REMEMBERING OLANTA HIGH SCHOOL BEARCATS



GRADUATING CLASSES

<p style="text-align: center;">★ 1980 ★</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE LAST CLASS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"For I know the plans I have for you, "Plans to give hope and a future." — Jeremiah 29:11</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">JEREMIAH 29:11</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"For I know the plans I have for you, "Plans to give hope and a future." — Jeremiah 29:11</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">CLASS OF 1980 (42)</p> <table style="width: 100%; font-size: 8px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Beverly Epps Betty Freeman Ednie Howell Johnnie Lillian McElveen Deborah Miles J.D. Miles Larry Montgomery Rebecca Stone Karen Welch Kerol Thomas Helle Thomas Dorcas Windham Gail Woodard</td> <td style="width: 50%;">11. Beverly Epps 12. Betty Freeman 13. Ednie Howell 14. Johnnie 15. Lillian McElveen 16. Deborah Miles 17. J.D. Miles 18. Larry Montgomery 19. Rebecca Stone 20. Karen Welch 21. Kerol Thomas 22. Helle Thomas 23. Dorcas Windham 24. Gail Woodard</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 8px;">FLAMATION HARK CIAES WARRIEN ONCE IN SOUELTITING IN CODOAT SOBK SODIED DBBERT DKFECLOATING</p>	Beverly Epps Betty Freeman Ednie Howell Johnnie Lillian McElveen Deborah Miles J.D. Miles Larry Montgomery Rebecca Stone Karen Welch Kerol Thomas Helle Thomas Dorcas Windham Gail Woodard	11. Beverly Epps 12. Betty Freeman 13. Ednie Howell 14. Johnnie 15. Lillian McElveen 16. Deborah Miles 17. J.D. Miles 18. Larry Montgomery 19. Rebecca Stone 20. Karen Welch 21. Kerol Thomas 22. Helle Thomas 23. Dorcas Windham 24. Gail Woodard	<p style="text-align: center;">1979</p> <p>11. Betty Epps 12. Betty Howen 13. John Joe 14. Larry McElveen 15. Miles Montgomery</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1976</p> <p>07. Benda Rodgers 08. Debbie Rodgers 09. Randy Stone 10. Debbie Stafford</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1972</p> <p>03. Borain Howell 04. Joe Stone 05. Gayle Rodgers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1966</p> <p>19. Karen Welch 20. Janice McKeon 21. Bet Ward</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1978</p> <p>72. Aneta Epps 70. Jerry Howe 71. John Miles 78. Donna Rollins 69. Neron Songges</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1975</p> <p>01. Larhani Burgess 02. Eric Rodger 03. Gera Staezer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1972</p> <p>00. Laggie Stone 03. Debra Stone 00. Bruce Sanders</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1966</p> <p>01. Lamer Staker 02. Glora Playeg 03. Betto Skuecer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1977</p> <p>25. Bennie Moses 24. Bart Kamper 23. Sandra Hayes 72. Ricky Moore J1. J.T.M. Metzler</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1974</p> <p>01. Brenda Rogers 06. Donald Roy 03. Senior Stoggers 03. Franklin Singletary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1971</p> <p>01. Carne Gaeger 08. Steve Stecker 05. Betsy KinBierden</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1965</p> <p>01. Lamar Slayer 02. Gloria Player 06. Dary Mingelatos</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HONORING OUR PAST CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT, INSPIRING OUR FUTURE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BEING SPONSORED BY CLASS OF 80</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OSAA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OLANTA STRONG, BEARCAT PROUD.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ONCE A BEARCAT, ALWAYS A BEARCAT</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">***** FOREVER BEARCATS</p>
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Proposed Project Budget & Funding Plan

Remembering the Graduating Classes of Olanta High School

Project Budget

The Class of 1980 proposes a project budget of **\$5,000**, with an allowable variance of **15%** based on final design, material, installation, and site preparation costs.

Budget Scenario	Amount
Target Budget	\$5,000
15% Cost Reduction Goal	\$4,250
15% Maximum Budget	\$5,750

The project will be managed by the representatives of the **Class of 1980**, who will work with vendors and sponsors to achieve the lowest practical cost while maintaining quality and durability. Our goal is to achieve cost savings of approximately **15%**, reducing the overall project cost to approximately **\$4,250** whenever possible.

Funding Sources

The Class of 1980 will serve as the lead sponsor of this project and will coordinate fundraising efforts through:

1. Graduating Classes (1979–1965)

We respectfully request that members of the graduating classes from **1965 through 1980** contribute whatever amount they can donate toward preserving the history and legacy of Olanta High School.

Suggested Contribution: \$15 or more per person

2. Private Donations

Friends, family members, former teachers, community supporters, and non-class members will be invited to contribute toward the project.

3. Corporate and Community Sponsors

If additional funding is required, local businesses, civic organizations, churches, and community groups will be invited to participate as sponsors.

Fundraising Goal

We estimate that approximately **300 former students and supporters** may participate.

Item	Estimate
Estimated Participants	300
Average Donation	\$15
Projected Contributions	\$4,500

Additional donations from private individuals and sponsors are expected to help meet or exceed the project budget target.

Financial Stewardship

The Class of 1980 is committed to managing project funds responsibly and transparently. Every effort will be made to negotiate favorable pricing and reduce costs wherever possible without sacrificing quality.

Should donations exceed the amount required to complete the project, or if project costs are reduced below budget, **all remaining funds will be donated to the school for the benefit of the students and programs of the middle school.**

Statement of Purpose

This project is intended to honor and preserve the history of Olanta High School and recognize the graduating classes that helped shape our community. It will provide a lasting tribute for future generations and serve as a source of pride for alumni, students, families, and residents of the Olanta community.

Submitted by:

Class of 1980 Project Committee

Olanta High School Alumni Preservation Project