

CHARLES P. ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL



EAGLES

History of Charles P. Adams High School

by Wilbert Berry

This is the history of education in the Oberlin Louisiana area as recounted by Mr. Wilbert Berry who worked in maintenance at Charles Phillip Adams High School in Oberlin, Louisiana. William Berry, his father, was born in 1904. He went to school in a barn in 1912 and was taught by Mr. Simmon Morehead who taught the basics about reading and arithmetic. Mr. Morehead was a farmer. This was the earliest education in the parish for African Americans.

The first formal teaching for African Americans was at the First Baptist Church of Oberlin. Students from grades one through seven sat in the pews for instructions. The first teacher in the 1930's was Mrs. Blount. Later a one room school house was built for school. Students who desired higher grade education were sent to Oakdale to the Allen Parish Training School.

In 1942 the Oberlin Colored School was built, a two- room cinder block building, and opened its doors in 1943. Two teachers, Ms. Estelle Collins and Mrs. C. F. Harvey taught first to seventh grades. Students who desired high school went to Allen High School. A third room with an auditorium was added and the elementary school continued until 1963. Additional buildings were added to complete the high school.

The first principal was Mr. John Armstead, a graduate of Grambling College. Mr. Armstead named the school, Charles P. Adams High School in honor of the founder of Grambling College. The school colors were red and white and the mascot was the eagle.

Negro High School Set For Oberlin

OAKDALE (Spl.) — A Negro high school is being created by the Allen parish school board for Oberlin according to Alex Stephens, president of the board. This will be the third in the parish.

The new school will be called Charles P. Adams high school in honor of the founder of Grambling college near Ruston.

Stephens said the board would meet on June 13 to open bids for classrooms, a cafeteria and a gymnasium for the new high school as well as bids for a gymnasium at the Oberlin high school (white).

Heretofore, the Adams school hold grades from the first through the eighth and students then attended Carver high school at Kinder.

The largest Negro high school in the parish is Allen High in Oakdale. With the creation of Adams High, the total high schools in the parish will reach nine.



**Charles P. Adams High School Campus
March 1, 2018**



Foundation of the Former Charles P. Adams High School



**First Baptist Church of Oberlin
March, 2018**