

## **History of Ryley School**

In January 1938, the rural and most of the town school districts of the Municipality combined under one secretary and one school board to form the Holden School Division. The Ryley School Board, under the chairmanship of Dr. J.L. McPherson, elected to remain independent.

In 1944, the Ryley School Board decided to construct a new stucco building, west of the old four-room school. There were two large rooms on the main floor, with room for one classroom in the basement. This building was the Home Economics Department (CTS) until the spring of 2014.

The Ryley School Board elected to join the Holden School Division in 1950. Since the rural schools around Ryley were gradually being phased out and the children were to be bussed into Ryley, it was necessary to build. In February 1955, a new six-room school was built – this being the south wing of our present school. Also, to accommodate the influx of students from rural schools, several rural schools were moved in.

In 1957, a gymnasium and six-room east wing was added at the north end of the existing school.

In January 1958, the County of Beaver #9 was formed and they decided, in 1961, to demolish the old four-room school and build the present CTS Building. Due to the increase in school population, it was necessary, in 1962, to build four more rooms on the east wing of the school.

In 1971, the present library and office area, consisting of offices for the principal, vice-principal, school counsellor, a reading resource room and a general office were added to the existing building.

In 1984, faced with the problem of maintaining quality programming during a period when enrolments were declining, the Board of Education initiated major program reorganization at Ryley and Holden, resulting in Ryley School offering programs at the K-6 and 10-12 grade levels.

During the 1994-95 school year, extensive renovations were undertaken with a complete facelift given to both the outside and inside of Ryley School. In January of 1995 the four high school portables were completed and by August 1995 the remaining renovations were completed.

1999 marked the beginning of the Ryley Jr /Sr High School serving students in grades 7-12 in the Ryley and Holden communities.

In 2014 we changed to mobile computing labs (laptops) and as such our existing computer lab was transformed into a state of the art Home-Economics facility. The exterior of Ryley School received a facelift in 2014 as well.

2020 was a year of profound changes in many areas. Provincial budget cuts to education were leading to substantial adjustments, and in January of 2020, the school board made a motion to consolidate Holden and Ryley to help balance the school board budget. On March 16, 2020 due to a global pandemic, in-person learning throughout the province of Alberta was suspended and all students were sent home for the remainder of the school year. On March 19, 2020 a vote by the trustees saw the permanent closure of Holden School with kindergarten to grade 6 students moving to Ryley School and Ryley High School being permanently closed.

September 2021 began with the continued concerns over the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic, but Ryley School opened to in-person learning as a kindergarten to grade 9 school.

In May 2021, the Ryley School Council group raised enough funds to cover the construction of phase I of a playground for the students and the playground was completed in the fall of 2022.