

## **Tayac Academy History**

Tayac Academy opened its doors in September 1955. The name of the school means “peace loving” in the Piscataway Indian language. There were eight classrooms and a permanent faculty of three when the school opened.

The first principal was hired only two weeks before school opened, and did not have time to make many preparations. The teacher shortage at the time compounded the problems and the faculty was not completed until January 1956. In addition a construction firm broke ground for an eight-room addition on the south end of the building just weeks after the school opened.

The new addition was completed in September 1956. Tayac had now doubled its pupil capacity. The surrounding area did not provide enough children to fill the school and the extra space was offered to the Forest Heights community. These children were returned to their own schools the following year as Tayac rapidly filled with pupils living within its boundaries.

In 1960 the Tayac boundaries extended from the Trailer Court on Temple Hills Road to the Top of Bock Road and Indian Head Highway via Old Fort Road and Livingston Road.

The school experienced tremendous growth between 1960 and 1966. Four additional classrooms were built in 1963. Three temporary buildings as well as the library and stage were used as classrooms.

In 1968 the boundary lines were changed and many of the children and some of the faculty members went to the new school, Rose Valley. The boundary included all areas between 9500 Allentown Road and Burgess Lane.

In September 1968 the enrollment was 525 and continued to increase throughout the year.

In 1970, a State program, known as Continuum was initiated which provided many additional services for children and Continuum was in operation at Tayac until the close of the 1974-75 school year.