

Proposed Name

New Elementary School in the Panhandle

The Naming Committee's recommendations

The Naming Committee for the new elementary school unanimously recommends

- the school be named **Van Wyck Elementary School**.
- the school's mascot be **The Braves**.
- the school colors be **Blue, Gold & White**, matching the Indian Land High colors.

Why Van Wyck Elementary School

The new elementary school in the panhandle, opening in August 2018, is located just north of Andrew Jackson State Park on Highway 521 in close proximity to the newly recognized town of Van Wyck.

The first known occupants of the area were the Catawba Indians. In the mid 1700's, Irish and Scottish settlers arrived.

The area actually had a few other names before it received the name Van Wyck in 1887. The Seaboard Air Line Railway was responsible for the initial land development for areas along the path of the railroad. Van Wyck was the maiden name of a wife of one of the of a Seaboard Air Line Railway officials.

Van Wyck is a derivative of the Dutch word "wijk," which actually means district or settlement. Interesting historical facts about the area include

- deep roots to the Native American culture of the Catawba Indians,
- close to the birthplace of former United States President Andrew Jackson,
- close to the birthplace of former Governor of South Carolina Stephen Decatur Miller,
- close to the home of Olympic gold medalist Shawn Crawford and
- close to home of Ashe's Ferry, the last fully functioning ferry in the state of South Carolina.

Historically, many of the small communities in Lancaster County serviced students in schools in the students' locations, and Van Wyck is no exception. Until 1911, Beulah Presbyterian Church was the home for learning for students in the community. The first fully functioning school opened in 1911 in a traditional wooden structure building that is occupied today as a residence.

Then in 1924, the Van Wyck community built a brick and mortar school that served the community until the 1950's when it was closed down. The school was demolished, and the current Van Wyck Community Building was built on the property in 1963.

The Van Wyck school also served as a temporary hub for all students in the Indian Land area when the school at Indian Land was lost because of a fire.

The Van Wyck residents possess a great deal of pride in their history and in the fact that these schools did so much to promote unity and shape and form the lives of so many residents of the area. Van Wyck residents possess great pride and stay actively involved in the community, evidenced in the recent incorporation of the town of Van Wyck in August 2017.

The committee thought it fitting to name Lancaster County's newest elementary school after an area historically which has richly valued and placed a priority on education. The area continues to emphasize the importance of community involvement.

The committee also thought it was important to pay tribute to the great Native American history of the area and promote a sense of unity and consistency by choosing a mascot reflective of other feeder schools in the Indian Land area.

Adopting the Braves mascot – in addition to selecting blue, gold and white as the school colors – allows for continuity of school and promotes a sense of community spirit, unifying all residents in the northern part of Lancaster County, regardless of where they live or the school their children attend.