

Rogers

Name: John Rogers Elementary School	Enrollment: 289
Address: 4030 NE 109th Street	Nickname: Otters
Configuration: K-5	Colors:



Rogers, 1958 SPSA 266-4

After World War II, the area north of Sand Point became one of the city's newest suburbs. Around 1950, residents were eager for a public beach on Lake Washington. The Seattle Parks Department selected property owned by John G. Matthews, and in 1951 the city condemned his horse pasture and created Matthews Beach Park. Matthews was able to lease the pasture back for three years while the city waited to secure funds to develop the park.

In 1953, an all-portable school, unofficially known as Matthews School, opened at (N)E 105th & 40th Avenue NE, the former site of the La Villa Dairy. The school, five blocks from Jane Addams Junior High School, was the second all-portable school installed by the Seattle School District in the newly annexed area in northeast Seattle. The cluster of 10 portables, with eight used as classrooms for 260 students, helped relieve overcrowding at Maple Leaf School.

On June 18, 1954, during its second year of operation and after some local controversy, Matthews School was renamed the John Rogers School. John Rankin Rogers was an early governor of Washington (1895-1901) who had authored legislation known as the "Barefoot School Boy Law," providing financial aid to schools.

It soon became obvious that a larger, permanent building was needed for the area. In 1956, on the north end of the property, a site four blocks away, the district built a facility "designed for future expansion," which was prescient as enrollments soon began to soar. In 1960, the school was serving 689 students, which required the

Details:

Name: **Matthews School**
 Location: (N)E 105th & 40th Avenue NE
 Building: All-portable school

1953: Opened
 1954: Became an independent school; renamed John Rogers

Details:

Name: **John Rogers School**

Location: 4030 NE 109th Street

Building: 16-room brick

Architect: Theo Damm

Site: 9.2 acres

1956: Opened in September

2006: Athletic field upgrades

2007: Seismic improvements

2021: Planning for new school began

2023: Construction on new building began

[2025]: School opens in fall (DLR Group; BEX V)

inquiry-based math. The school enjoyed strong support for tutoring and reading programs from nearby Lake City Presbyterian Church and St. Johns Masonic Temple.

As part of BTA, the field at Rogers was upgraded in 2006 as an auxiliary multi-purpose sports field to augment the fields at Hale and Addams and to provide space for lacrosse.

In 2019, BEX V provided funds to replace the existing school with a new, three-story building. The new building will provide about 85,000 square feet to accommodate up to 500 students. An expansion plan will serve an additional 150 students at a future date, if needed. Construction on the 9.2-acre site began in 2023; the replacement school is scheduled to open to students in fall 2025. Students attended John Marshall as an interim site.

addition of five portable classrooms. In 1963, enrollment peaked at 779. School enrollment then began to decline, reaching 425 students a decade later.

From 1974-76, special education teacher Janet Steputis designed and taught a program for 26 children in grades K-3 that focused on individualized learning and development. In a resource center at Rogers, she saw each student address their problems and to “keep kids from getting locked into a negative pattern in school.” Her goal was to identify effective means and help children reach objectives defined for them by their classroom teachers. Sometime after 1973, the library was named in honor of teacher and librarian Lois Colson who worked at Rogers for twenty years.

Rogers offered Portuguese language instruction for grades 2-5 that was also integrated with the music program. A National Science Foundation (NSF) grant trained teachers in inquiry-based science, and a grant from Social Venture Partners was used to train teachers in



Rogers, 1960 SPSA 266-2