

History of Kosrae High School

The 1950's epoch provided the underpinning of Kosrae High School. Kosrae was a constituency district under Pohnpei State when the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) Government was still existed and provided the political national administration for groups of Micronesian islands here in the Pacific.

Without a secondary school on the island, Kosrae students who completed their primary education in Kosrae have to travel to Pohnpei serially to continue their education endeavor at Pohnpei Intermediate High School. These travels and journeys created nuisance worries to parents and families in Kosrae. More and more Kosrae students finished their primary education but a good number by some means could not leave the island to attend Pohnpei Intermediate School. Subsequent to countless continual bursary requests to the TTPI for a secondary school, the year 1958 marked the history of having the first secondary school in Kosrae. The TTPI Government finally awarded Kosrae a grant-in-aid of \$15,000.00 to have their own secondary school within their backyard.

Kosrae Intermediate School

In 1958, the construction of the first Kosrae secondary school "Kosrae Intermediate School" finally began. Since the road to the inaccessible government ground at Tofol was not yet developed, Kosrae Intermediate School was built on a private land at Yekula, Tafunsak. It was built as a boarding school by the Kosraean people on voluntary basis. Dormitories of few thatched roofs were built to house the boarding students who were from the remote villages. A cafeteria was also built for the school where they served breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the boarding students. These students, however, have to return home on Friday evenings and returned back to school on Sunday evenings.

The enrollment for the first year at Kosrae Intermediate School was somewhat small with 50 students but jumped to 95 the following year. Years after, more and more students completed their primary education and attended the Kosrae Intermediate School. The Kosrae Intermediate School lasted only four (4) years.

Kosrae Junior High School

Kosrae Junior High School was apparently started in 1962, of which it provided education for only three grade levels; 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Within a very short time, Mr. Royal Gifford, who became the school's principal after being a teacher for the previous two years, initiated the idea of changing the Kosrae Junior High School to become a high school. He conducted meetings with parents and leaders with his imperative proposal.

Being an experienced educator, Mr. Gifford had convinced Kosrae to change the Kosrae Junior High School to Kosrae Senior High School. The 7th and 8th graders were sent down to the elementary school while the new Kosrae High School comprised only the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders.

Kosrae High School

By the year 1964, Kosrae High School was in fact started. A new curriculum was implemented and used based on four (4) general courses; English, Science, Math, and Social Studies, and three (3) vocational studies; Mechanics, Construction, and Agriculture. More and more parents sent

their kids to Kosrae High School. The first principal of Kosrae High School was Mr. Royal Gifford, an American contract teacher funded by the United States Government. The teaching qualifications to teach at the Kosrae High School were not strictly required but the teachers were hired upon completing a teachers' training program in Guam.

In 1978, a new high school was built in Tofol when the area became developed and accessible for transportation. The Kosrae High School in Yekula was closed down and the property was returned to the landowners. The new Kosrae High School was built in Tofol. After operating for about 30 years, the Tofol Campus started to experience numerous problems pertaining to renovations.

During the year 2009, the new Kosrae High School complex building was constructed and funded by the Chinese Government. A year after, Kosrae High School had moved to the nearby new complex which consists of 36 classrooms, 18 restrooms, 5 offices, one (1) basketball court, and a spacious parking area.

Pictures of Kosrae High School





