

The 1970's



In the 1970's, a word that hadn't been heard around Blair very much in its earlier days started to creep into conversations about the school—diversity. Maybe the most visible sign of that new phenomenon was the inclusion of Blair's first black in the cheerleading squad. Blair had had a racially-mixed student body for many years, but as the neighborhoods around the school (and the feeder junior high schools, Eastern, Montgomery Hills, and Takoma Park) started to become more diverse, so did Blair's. It wasn't just the number of minority students that changed—it was also Blair's clubs, athletic team, faculty, and student leadership.



Blair continued to be a leader in many sports throughout the decade. Three more Blair basketball teams won State Championships (1975, 1977, and 1979). The soccer squad won two County Championships and one State Championship and the cross country team captured the county title.

With new students also came new interests. Blair, which had always encouraged students to pursue their interests through the formation of school organizations, saw an explosion of clubs to meet the ever-broadening needs of the students. Groups such as the Frisbee Club, the Juggling Club, Ebony Incorporated, and the Bicycle Club sprang up (and sometimes faded into oblivion) during the decade.

Of course, it's impossible to mention the 70's without talking about "fashion." As the more conservative eras of the 40's, 50's and early 60's gave way to the counter-culture movements of the late 60's and 70's, student dress became more casual and self-expression was the way to go. In many ways, this trend was a re-affirmation of what Blair stood for from the beginning. Our school always sought to challenge its students to be whatever they wanted to be, and to be the best.

