

HISTORY OF BACOLOD CITY HIGH SCHOOL

For twenty two years the Bacolod City High School has been the cradle of young and women exploring the depth and height of public education. From a few rented rooms and the free use of the provincial high school grandstand in its infancy, the Bacolod City high school successfully branched out into the city's thickly populated districts and barrios, thus quelling the ever growing thirst for knowledge, in the brief span of 22 years.

When Bacolod became a chartered city in 1938, it made an arrangement with the provincial government of Negros Occidental to pay a subsidy of Ph 20 pesos per student-resident enrolled in the provincial high school. This arrangement went on for about 10 years, until the creation of the Bacolod City High School by the City Council on July 1, 1948 per resolution No. 578, series of 1948. This date marked the start of the first secondary under the jurisdiction of Bacolod City. Approved by the Director of Public Schools to open the school was contained in his 4th indorsement, dated August 12, 1948.

Among the favorable factors that hastened the opening of the Bacolod City High School in 1948, as recalled by Geronimo P. Gonzales, first BCHS Principal and who held the position for 21 years, were:

1. Congestion and lack of room accommodation in the provincial high school
2. Ability of the City government to finance an independent high school
3. Favorable indorsements of then NOHS principal Dominador K. Lopez and Division Superintendent of Schools Fernando S. Fuentes
4. The enthusiasm and support of the people and city government of Bacolod, led by its Mayor, Hon. Vicente T. Remato and the City councilors.

The present site of the Bacolod City High School, containing an area of about 15 hectares, was purchased on January 15, 1948 for Ph8,279.70.

It was only on its second year that the Bacolod City High School finally transferred to its permanent site after its first trying year at a rented building and some rooms at the provincial high school. A permanent building was constructed out of pork barrel allotment of then Congressman Carlos Hilado. Three Quonset huts of eight non-standard rooms were financed and constructed by the city government. Both projects cost the national and city government about Ph 91,756.30 without pre-charges inherent in such projects.

More important constructions followed in succession which cost about Ph 261,432.30 in 1952. These were a shop building, lunch counter, home economics building, a science building in 1962, a language arts building, the following year and a food laboratory building.

The North high school was created in 1964-65, bringing the secondary education closer to the barrio people. More high schools such as those in Mansilingan, Tangub, Bata and Banago have been set up to fulfill a growing thirst among low-earning employees free education for their children as guaranteed by the Philippine constitution.

At its inception in 1948-1949, the school adopted the general secondary curriculum prescribed by the bureau of public schools. Without waiting for the adoption of the 2-2

plan in 1957-1958, the school revised its curriculum in 1956-1957 to meet the needs of the local community.

In line with the Educational policy of putting more concentration in science and mathematics, the school adopted the Wilson or UP Plan in 1962-63. This initial experiment classes consisted of 35 students duly screened in matters of age, mental ability and achievements in science and mathematics of the elementary graduates. The school graduated the first batch in 1965-1966.

Following closely the adoption of this plan, the school was selected one of the eleven pilot public secondary school in science and math in 1962-63, after considering the training of available teachers in these subjects. Early during the first semester of the school year 1962-1963, this school was honored by the services of the three American Peace Corps Volunteers, two in science and one in mathematics.

Teacher counterparts were selected and charged with the task of revising the present guide studies in these subjects to answer and meet the challenge of the scientific world. Since then, several groups of PCV's were assigned to the school.

The Bacolod City high school finally abolished its tuition fees in 1962-63, a feat seldom duplicated by other public high schools in the country. It eliminated one of the major cause of school drop outs. More students especially the poor but deserving ones, fulfilled their fond desire of acquiring higher education. Because of its growing population and rising cost of operational expenses, the city government had to tap new sources of revenues, one of which is the amusement tax adding some Ph325,000 to the school

Adult education was provided in the curriculum of the school with the offering of hair science and beauty culture to the adults who were without means to enroll in private vocational schools. A home economics teacher, previously trained in these arts, blazed the way to meet the needs of the community along this line. The City council has authorized the organization of adult or opportunity classes in cosmetology, dressmaking, automechanics, electricity and other vocational courses.

Later, more buildings were constructed to accommodate all the academic and vocational classes.

Twenty-eight years later, the Bacolod Arts Center was constructed at Bacolod City High School to become an outstanding landmark not only for the school but also for the people of Bacolod.

The Bacolod Arts Center became the venue of the third and last Tri-Regional Secondary Schools Press Conference. On December 2-4 1987, it was the venue of the 9th Western Visayas Regional Secondary School Press Conference. Another pivotal point in the history of the school was its nationalization on October 1, 1983 under Batas Pambansa Blg. 372. It was then renamed to BACOLOD CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL.

In 2005, the class of 1973 solicited funds to restore the main building to its original state. It is hoped that through this effort, other classes will be challenged and encouraged to do the same to restore Bacolod City High/ Bacolod City National High School as one of the leading schools in the province, the region and the entire country. It was then blessed and inaugurated on September 14, 2006 under the leadership of Mrs. Elna Mediodia Luz, President Class 1973.

IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

- CONGRESSMAN CARLOS HILADO - Initiated the construction of BCHS permanent Building in 1950
- HON. MAYOR VICENTE T. REMETIO - His enthusiasm and support for the opening of BCHS
- GERONIMO P. GONZALEZ - 1ST BCHS Principal who held the position for 21 years
- DOMINADOR K. LOPEZ - Negros Occidental High School Principal , Indorsed the opening of BCHS and
- FERNANDO S. FUENTES - Division Superintendent of Schools , also Indorsed & approved the opening of BCHS
- FROILAN LEDESMA - Writer and composer of BCHS ALMA MATER SCHOOL HYM
- ARACELI MIRANO - Founder and Chairperson Soroptimist Bacolod Foundation Day Care Center and a retired English Department Head
- ELNA M. LUZ - Initiated the renovation and restoration of Main building particularly the library.
- ZENITH AVILA - Initiated the planning and construction of Concrete drainage particularly home economics area and Restoration of H.E. Office into a functional & operational Laboratory , presently head of H.E. Dept